



Your Saturday Independent: a bigger and better newspaper

The Eye
A week's TV, arts
and entertainment:
complete guide

The Long Weekend
The best places
to be, the best
places to ski



The Magazine
Seeing is believing:
at home with
Dolce and Gabbana



Some good news from Africa: Thousands of refugees flood back

Going home

Mary Braid

It was the outcome everyone wished for but dared not believe would ever come true: 100,000 Hutu refugees were streaming out of Zaire yesterday, filling every inch of the 10km road leading home to Rwanda.

In an instant, the two-year, vice-like grip of the Hutu Interahamwe militia over more than a million refugees in Zairean camps loosened. And the United Nations was saved from a rescue operation that already had failure written all over it.

"The Interahamwe are going," said one returning refugee, Laurent Nziro, who fled Rwanda in 1994 in the wake of the Hutu genocide of 800,000 Tutsis. "They wanted us to go with them but most of us want to go home."

As they trudged together with ragged bundles of belongings, a woman was giving birth by the side of the road. "The leaders fled," said an old woman. "And after two years I'm going home."

The crucial act of defiance finally came yesterday morning when the Interahamwe, architects and overseers of the genocide, started to break up shacks in the Mugunga refugee camp and instructed people to follow them north-west, further into the forests of Zaire.

For two days, Zairean rebels had pounded the camp from the nearby town of Goma, spurred by the news that the world would not do what was necessary: disarm the militia men and separate them from the refugees who were their meal-ticket and front for attacks into Rwanda, and finally became their human shields.

This time, the masses, intimidated into staying by the occasional lynching and scare stories about Tutsi retribution, did not obey. Many had already trekked for days from other battle-torn refugee camps further north. Hundreds had perished on the way and in the fighting there was no time to bury the dead. Hunger, fatigue and human loss under intensive rebel offensives achieved what two years of gentle UN persuasion had failed to do. The refugees finally decided to take their chances back home.

The international community, forced this week by the Mugunga siege into launching a relief operation, will

be delighted by the camp's unexpected spontaneous combustion. Even as the UN last night moved to authorise an intervention force, one of its greatest challenges was melting away.

Most Western governments understood that a break-up of the camps was vital for regional stability, but none was prepared to risk troops on the ground to dismantle them. The US insisted that neutralising the Interahamwe was not part of the UN mandate. Just how they were going to deliver aid to hundreds of thousands of refugees, held to ransom in a war-zone, was difficult to see.

The home-grown resolution may have come just in time. Yesterday the World Health Organisation announced the first confirmed cases of cholera in Mugunga, which had been cut off from aid for two weeks.

Mugunga represents the largest single return of refugees to Rwanda. But from the start smaller groups had trickled home. So far their reintegration into a country now governed by Tutsis appears to have gone well.

The UN has more than 100 human-rights observers in Rwanda. And while the Rwandan government argues that only those guilty of murder has anything to fear, events yesterday proved otherwise.

Most refugees were waved home by smiling rebels but 30 Hutu women and children were less lucky. They were ambushed on the outskirts of Mugunga hours before the exodus home.

If the refugee dam has indeed burst what exactly is an international military force needed for now? President Clinton said last night that it was still required. The return of the refugees was "very good preliminary news", but, he warned, "we must be prepared ... to have some presence there to facilitate this." There is still an overwhelming need for humanitarian assistance - and the threat of war between Zaire, one the one side and Rwanda and Burundi on the other.

Last night Major General Ed Smith, a Vietnam veteran tipped to head the American side of the UN operation, was asked whether there was any work for him to do now. The military man would not be drawn into a political statement. It was a "dynamic" situation he said. But he was grinning from ear to ear.

Guide to Zaire, pages 10 and 11



Tens of thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees crossing the Zairean border at Goma back into their country yesterday after fleeing Mugunga refugee camp two days ago. Photograph: John Perkins/Reuters

English top of the form in science

Judith Judd
Education Editor

English teenagers are beating the rest of Europe at science but in maths their performance is declining sharply, according to a study to be published this week. Experts say the difference proves teaching methods, not an anti-education culture, are to blame for pupils' poor performance in maths.

When the International Maths and Science Study was last carried out six years ago, results of English 13-year-olds were 3 per cent above the world average. This time, the study found they were 2 per cent below. England was 19th out of 27 broadly comparable countries in maths but 6th out of 27 in science. In a group of nine industrialised countries in algebra and number, it was bottom.

Some commentators have suggested children in countries such as Japan and Korea do better at maths because their culture values education and hard work. But David Reynolds, of Newcastle upon Tyne University, author of another recent survey of comparisons in maths and science, said: "This study showing that we are doing well in science explodes once and for all the idea that the reason for our poor performance in maths is cultural. It is clearly to do with our school system and our technology of teaching. England used to be at the bottom of the second division. It has now moved into the third."

That three-quarters of lesson time is spent on individual and group work in England - much more than elsewhere - may be particularly damaging in maths, Professor Reynolds believes.

Nearly 14,000 English pupils took part in the survey, which included 46 countries. They answered 53 per cent of the



maths questions correctly. Singapore, where pupils scored 79 per cent, was top. The average was 55 per cent. France, Belgium, Switzerland and Ireland all did better than England.

Even the US, which traditionally has lagged behind England, is ahead. In science, by comparison, only Singapore, Japan, Korea and the Czech Republic did better. In the last study, England was 2 per cent above the average; now it is almost 6 per cent above.

Wendy Keys, one of the study's authors, suggested a reason for the improved science performance might be that more time was being spent on science than 30 years ago. Another explanation may be the introduction of the national curriculum, which makes science compulsory in all primary schools. Primary-school teachers, many of whom had little experience of teaching science, have had to brush up their knowledge and technique.

The national curriculum and testing have not had the same effect in maths. Professor Reynolds believes that is because teaching methods, not a centralised curriculum and testing, are the key to improved performance.

Predictions galore in Cassandra hunt

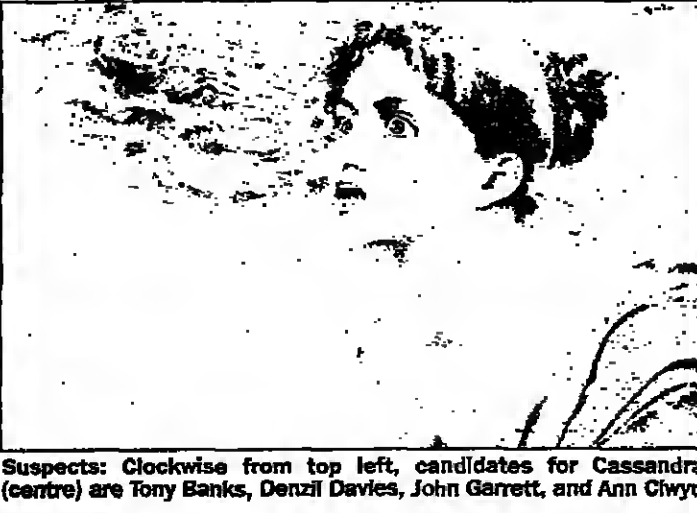
Christian Wolmar
and John Rentoul

Whodunnit? Which Labour MP had the cheek to anonymously suggest Tony Blair next summer? Last night at Westminster, Blair's hounds were in hot, but so far vain, pursuit of shadowy Cassandra, the "senior Labour MP" who wrote in this week's *Tribune* newspaper.

The article in the left-wing weekly predicted Mr Blair would be ousted in a 'Palace coup' and probably replaced by Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary.

Trouble-stirring and probably malicious stuff. So who is Cassandra? Suspicion naturally fell in turn on a number of well-known members of Labour's Awkward Squad but on closer examination most chuckling suspects were quickly allowed to escape to freedom.

Early candidates included Austin Mitchell and Tony Banks, the two best jokers on the Labour benches. Mr Mitchell recently wrote an ar-



Suspects: Clockwise from top left, candidates for Cassandra (centre) are Tony Banks, Denzil Davies, John Garrett, and Ann Clwyd

ticle in the *New Statesman* likening Mr Blair to Kim Il Sung, Korea's late strongman, and is so Eurosceptic that he is danger of declaring UDI for Grimsby, his constituency. Mr Banks, a general trouble-maker who has come out in favour of legalisation of cannabis - but eschewing the drug himself - and is so unable to keep his mouth shut that his periods on the front bench have always been cut short by his mouth.

Examination of the article ruled both these out. It was far too boring and long-winded.

"LONG-WINDED", they all cried. What about Neil Kinnock? Oh, he's no longer an MP. So suspicion fell on other recent noisemakers. Paul Flynn, another pro-cannabis man, was a happily obscure MP until recently when he criticised Mr Blair for sending his child to a grant-maintained school and likened to a Tudor monarch. But Mr Flynn could hardly describe himself as senior having entered Parliament in 1987.

The braver manhunters decided to approach His office. A spokeswoman for the Labour

leader said: "We would rather nail the culprit. The only thing that is giving this thing legs is the mystery."

Sources close to Mr Blair yesterday pointed the finger of suspicion at Brian Sedgmore, the disaffected MP for Hackney South, who has been in this sort of trouble before. Mr Sedgmore got into deep water for writing under the name Justinian in *Private Eye* and a diary under his own name in the *New Statesman* in the 1980s. Recently he published a book containing salty observations on his parliamentary colleagues,

again under his own name.

But Mr Sedgmore denied authorship, and friends say that the views in the article are certainly not his. Denzil Davies, the former front-bencher and anti-EMU campaigner was ruled out for the same reason.

The choice of name, however, suggests a failure of judgement by the culprit. Cassandra had the fate of being expert at prophesying but of never being believed. And she was murdered by Clytemnestra for heeding a "pain in the neck", according to *The Independent's* resident Greek scholar.

QUICKLY

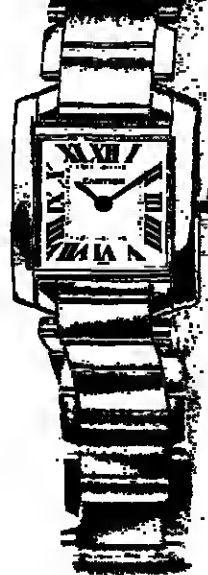
Howard defeat
The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, faced political embarrassment over the release of prisoners for the second time in four months, following a High Court ruling. Page 2

Compensation deal
Hundreds of British women have won the right to sue for a share of a £17m fund set aside for victims of faulty silicon breast implants, reversing a decision that only Americans were eligible. Page 3

CONTENTS

The Broadsheet	
Business & City	22-23
Comment	15-19
Foreign News	10-14
Gazette	20
Home News	2-8
Leading Articles	15
Letters	15
Obituaries	20
Saturday Story	18
Shares	21
Sport	24-30
The Long Weekend	
Arts	4-5
Books	6-8
Country	17
Crossword	29
Gardens	16
John Walsh Interview	3
Property	18,19
Money	21-24
Shopping	26-28
Unit trusts	20
Sailing	15
TV & radio	29,30
Weather	2

Cartier



Tank Française® watch
18 carat gold
New collection

THE ART OF BEING UNIQUE

Cartier, 175/176 New Bond Street, London W1.
Telephone: 0171-493 6962.
188 Sloane Street, London SW1.
Telephone: 0171-235 9023.
The Fine Jewellery Room and
The International Room of Luxury at Harrods.
Telephone: 0171-730 1234.
Heathrow Terminal 4, Telephone: 0181-745 6724
and leading jewellers throughout
the United Kingdom and Ireland.
For information on your nearest stockist,
please call 0171-493 6962.



سكوا من الأصل

news

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY special offer

half-price tomorrow 50p

Reader's name

Address

WHOLESALE NAME

RETAILER'S BOX NO

To the Reader: Hand this voucher to the newspaper with a copy of the Independent on Sunday 17 November 1996 and pay only 50p (Home delivery customers have until 15 December '96 to present the voucher to your newspaper).

To the Retailer: Please accept this voucher as part payment for the Independent on Sunday 17 November 1996 (reader pays 50p). To receive your normal terms plus a 50p handling fee, please provide your wholesaler's name and your box no. and return the completed voucher to your wholesaler by 18 December 1996. This voucher is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer - it is valid for the Independent on Sunday only. Offer valid in UK, ROI, Channel Isles & Isle of Man only.

To the Wholesaler: Please credit the returning retailer with 50p (R.O.I. 62p). This includes 20p retailer handling allowance per voucher. To receive your credit together with the wholesaler handling allowance, please send in Voucher Redemption List, 17 Orion Court, Garses Farm Rd, Basildon, Essex SS14 3DB. Ref: 106/50P



THE INDEPENDENT on Monday

only 10p

Reader's name

Address

WHOLESALE NAME

RETAILER'S BOX NO

To the Reader: Hand this voucher to the newspaper with a copy of The Independent on Monday 18 November 1996 and pay only 10p (Home delivery customers have until 16 December '96 to present the voucher to your newspaper).

To the Retailer: Please accept this voucher as part payment for The Independent on Monday 18 November 1996 (reader pays 10p). To receive your normal terms plus a 50p handling fee, please provide your wholesaler's name and your box no. and return the completed voucher to your wholesaler by 18 December 1996. This voucher is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer - it is valid for The Independent only. Offer valid in UK, ROI, Channel Isles & Isle of Man only.

To the Wholesaler: Please credit the returning retailer with 50p (R.O.I. 37p). This includes 20p Retailer Handling Allowance per voucher. To receive your credit together with the wholesaler handling allowance, please send in Voucher Redemption List, 17 Orion Court, Garses Farm Rd, Basildon, Essex SS14 3DB. Ref: 107/10P



significant shorts

Airlines seek higher fares to meet fuel costs

World airlines agreed yesterday to demand a 3 per cent rise in air fares to cover the higher cost of aviation fuel.

The International Air Transport Association, which represents 254 airlines around the world, said members decided to apply to their governments for permission to increase their fares globally by 15 December, which would put them in place for the busy end-of-year travel period.

IATA said the average price of aviation fuel has risen by 37 per cent since June, and 43 per cent since October 1995.

Internet link to gay group

The vice squad has investigated an Internet site linked to the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement which is organising today's controversial gay service at Southwark Cathedral, in London.

A complaint submitted to Scotland Yard alleged a website providing information about the LGCM had published a poem which was ruled blasphemous in a 1977 court case. The evangelical Reform Movement yesterday called on the Archbishop of Canterbury to cancel the LGCM 20th anniversary service, but Scotland Yard said that no decision had been made on whether to take action.

Benefit fraud bill reinforces war on cheats

The Government yesterday announced tough new proposals to combat benefit cheats, including seven-year prison sentences. The Social Security Administration Fraud Bill targets housing benefit and council tax benefit, responsible for a quarter of all benefit fraud, amounting to £1bn a year.

MP challenges exchange fees

Hugh Dykes, pro-European Tory MP for Harrow East has demanded an inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading into the high commission rates charged at Heathrow airport for foreign exchange.

False memory guidelines

Guidelines for psychiatrists and psychotherapists on false memories of sexual abuse are to be published next month. Groups at the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the UK Council for Psychotherapy will recommend stricter rules of conduct during therapy.

Lost childhood, Saturday Magazine

The Eye

Readers who fail to receive copies of The Eye or the Saturday Magazine should call 0171-293 2220 for a free copy.



Jet propelled: Ian Whittle, son of the inventor of the jet engine, Sir Frank Whittle (inset), leads his wife Hilary (right) and Sir Frank's widow, Lady Hazel Whittle, at a flypast after a thanksgiving service for the inventor's life at Westminster Abbey

Dozens prepare to leave jail as ruling by the High Court overturns decision on sentencing

Howard dealt double court blow

Patricia Wynn Davies
Legal Affairs Editor

Dozens of prisoners were preparing to leave jail last night after courts in Britain and Strasbourg delivered a double blow to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

In a test ruling in the High Court in London, three judges opened the way for the immediate release of two prisoners, the freeing of up to 50 more over the weekend, the recalculation of the sentences of at least 800 others - and a potential

compensation bill that could run into millions. Preparations for the releases began after the court laid down that all time spent by prisoners on remand should count against concurrent sentences, overturning a legal interpretation dating from 1982.

In Strasbourg, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the UK had violated the rights of a Sikh independence campaigner by unlawfully holding him in jail without trial on grounds of "national security" pending deportation to India, where he faced torture and possible death.

While Mr Howard will seek to regain the political initiative by backing next week's Private Member's Bill to outlaw con-

spiracy or incitement to commit acts of terrorism abroad, the double defeat came at the end of what was already a bleak week.

The Court of Appeal ruled on Wednesday that he must reconsider the naturalisation applications of the Egyptian-born Mohammed al-Fayed, chairman of Harrods, and his brother Ali, who had not been treated fairly.

In yesterday's High Court case, Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Blomfield swept away the current rule under which prisoners jailed for more than one offence could count only the period of remand which applied to the longest sentence they received. Until yesterday's ruling, mouths of other remand time could not be taken into account at all.

The two prisoners who brought the case, Michelle Evans, 22, who was at Brockhill Prison, Worcestershire, and Paul Reid, 19, at Onley Young Offenders Institution, Rugby, walked free within minutes of the judges declaring they should be freed forthwith.

Soon afterwards, the Sikh activist Karanjit Singh Chahal was celebrating an emotional reunion with his wife Darshan and teenage children Kiranreet and Dikarajit after Mr Howard authorised his release from Bedford jail within an hour of the ruling by the Strasbourg court.

Mr Chahal had been held in prison for six years and three months without knowing the allegations against him after a request for political asylum was turned down by the former Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke, but the accusation that he was a security risk meant that his right to challenge his detention in the UK courts was severely limited.

The Strasbourg court said it was unnecessary to consider the "untested but no doubt bona fide" allegations that Mr Chahal was a terrorist risk; the only relevant question was whether substantial grounds had been shown for believing he would be ill-treated in India. The court ruled by a major-

ity vote of 12 to 7 that deportation would put him at risk after considering evidence from Amnesty International, the US State Department and the Indian National Human Rights Commission. David Burgess, Mr Chahal's solicitor, said: "We are very, very pleased. We think it is a courageous decision by the court, adding: "It is as much an indictment of the UK courts as it is of the Home Office."

John Wadham, director of the human rights organisation Liberty, said: "We are delighted by the court's decision, which exposes the stilted nature of our legal system. The Government's trump card of 'national security' has consistently overridden individual rights."

Prisoners rejoice after catalogue of mix-ups in the penal system

Patricia Wynn Davies

For the second time in four months, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has been faced with claims of presiding over a shambolic penal system and the political embarrassment of prisoners enjoying the prospect of getting out of jail "early".

The notion of "early" is wrong. Yesterday's High Court ruling means that, as a matter of law, thousands of inmates on concurrent sentences had their terms fixed too long. But the issue flowed directly from the fiasco in August, when 541 inmates were wrongly released early following Prison Service instructions that criminals serving consecutive sentences should have time spent on remand taken off each term, not just once.

Mr Howard speedily and successfully challenged that in the courts, but by then none of the 541 could be recalled and a number quickly reoffended.

Four earlier High Court rulings on the application of the 1967 Criminal Justice Act to concurrent sentences, the first in 1982, had prompted Prison Service lawyers to recommend the controversial scheme for consecutive-sentence prisoners. But the earlier rulings were declared wrongly decided by the court yesterday.

Echoing what the man and woman in the street might have thought, the judges said: "It has in our experience been the practice to assume that all pe-

How the Home Secretary has fared in high-profile cases

WON
Deportation appeal by millionaire's Nepalese son.
Decision to halt controversial early-release scheme for consecutive-sentence prisoners.
LOST
Concurrent sentences challenge.
Chahal 'national security' deportation battle.
Fayed's appeal over denial of British citizenship.
Extradition appeal by Syed Ziauddin Ali Akbar, architect of the BCCI fraud.
Appeal by asylum-seekers for 'basics of survival'.
15-year 'tariff' on child killers of toddler James Bulger, wrongly influenced by media campaign.



riods of custody before sentencing, other than custody wholly unrelated to the offences for which sentence is passed, will count against the period of sentence to be served."

Anticipating yesterday's defeat, the Prison Service ordered governors to press ahead with a recalculation exercise a fortnight ago and, in contrast to the August débâcle, says it has made arrangements to alert the probation service.

Ann Widdicombe, the minister for prisons, said in a statement that the Prison Service would be examining the sentencing records of all 58,000 prisoners in 135 jails in England and Wales.

suggested the total value of potential claims could reach £18m, based on an average amount of unlawful custody of five to six weeks, and a *pro rata* compensation rate of £25,000 a year.

Imran Khan, solicitor for Paul Reid, one of the two freed yesterday, said: "I would like all prisoners to consider carefully whether this applies to them. They may well be entitled to compensation." Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "The decision is not about prisoners getting a bonus or reward. It is about correcting a long-standing unfairness."

The judges highlighted some of the injustices yesterday in reference to the four earlier decisions. In one case, the applicant had had to serve a year longer than his co-defendant, in another the fact that the applicant spent no time in custody, in a third of her many offences meant she was deprived of the benefit of the time she had spent on remand on all the others.

Paul Cavadin, chairman of the Penal Affairs Committee, said: "Today's judgment does not mean that remand prisoners will be counted more than those who brought this case was the some of their remand time has not been counted towards their sentences at all as a result of misapplication of the law."

The court refused leave for Mr Howard to go to the House of Lords.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD			
Austria	£5.40	Norway	£5.00
Belgium	£5.60	Portugal	£5.00
Canada	£5.80	Spain	£5.00
Cyprus	£5.20	Sweden	£5.00
Denmark	£5.20	Switzerland	£5.00
France	£5.20	USA	£5.00
Germany	£5.20		
Greece	£5.20		
Ireland	£5.20		
Italy	£5.20		
Japan	£5.20		
Netherlands	£5.20		
Poland	£5.20		
Republic of Ireland	£5.20		
Scandinavia	£5.20		
Spain	£5.20		
Sweden	£5.20		
Switzerland	£5.20		
USA	£5.20		

Back copies of the Independent are available from: Foreign Newspapers, telephone 01999 940370.

Spend less with MiniCall.

A cellular phone can cost £800 per year to run. By contrast, when you get a MiniCall, there are no on-going costs. Simply buy the pager and you have:

- NO monthly bills ever
- FREE connection
- NO contracts
- Nationwide coverage

PageOne MiniCall - stay in touch with no running costs.

£600 PA* (CELLULAR PHONE)

£99.99 RRP (MINICALL)

PAGEONE MINICALL

FreeCall 0500 505 505 anytime (quote MC).

AVAILABLE FROM: ARGOS, DUNN'S, OFFICE WORLD, PEOPLES PHONE SHOWING, SELECTED CURVY SUPERSTORES, TANDY TALKLAND, THE LINK AND AUTHORISED DEALERS.

PAGEONE COMMUNICATIONS

Calls made to mobile phones are charged to caller at 50p peak time (0800hrs - 1800hrs Mon-Fri) and 35p per call off-peak. Payphones, mobile phones, phonecards and/or other networks unless prevailing rates and may be subject to network availability. Actual costs will depend on user tariff, call frequency and time of call.

طريقه من الامم

Scots get the Scone, but Major wants the jam

The Stone of Destiny is handed back to Scotland 700 years after it was taken

Steve Boggan

The ancient Stone of Destiny was returned to Scotland yesterday amid a mixture of optimistic nationalism, the skin of bagpipes and the whine of hard-nosed Celtic sceptics.

After 700 years, the coronation stone crossed the River Tweed on its way home, a return engineered by Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, and John Major, the Prime Minister, in what was seen as either a grand gesture of reconciliation or a pre-clelection sop.

At 11am – one hour late because of a bomb scare – the stone, taken from the Scots in 1296 by a triumphant Edward I, stopped in an Army Land Rover at the centre of the Coldstream bridge which divides Scotland and England. There it was passed from No 7 Company the Coldstream Guards to an escort from the 1st Battalion the

Kings Own Scottish Borderers, who edged it gingerly into Scotland.

It was a moving moment witnessed by around 500 flag-waving patriots and schoolchildren. The Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Lowland Band of the Scottish Division struck up "The Return of the Stone", a piece of music written for the occasion by Capt Gavin Stoddart, director of Army bagpipe music at Edinburgh Castle.

For many, it was a moment of intense pride. Edward I took the stone – also known as the Stone of Scone – to further demoralise the Scots after he had crushed them. It had served as the seat on which all Scottish kings had been crowned since 839. According to myth, it had been used by Jacob as his pillow while in Bethel and had found its way to Scotland via Egypt and Spain. Its return,

therefore, represents the antithesis of that demoralisation.

"It's a wonderful thing for us," said Eleanor Moffat, owner of the nearest Scottish ovenshop to England. "It's ours and it belongs to us. It is part of our heritage. Besides, it will be good for tourism and that's good for all of us."

Alastair Brown-Scott, 63, chairman of the Coldstream Historical Society, was equally pleased. "It means that, after 700 years, something precious to us that was taken as a spoil of war is being given back," he said. "That will make all true Scots proud."

Mr Forsyth, and his opposite number on the Labour front benches, George Robertson, welcomed the return of the stone – although each was careful not to rouse Scots passions too much. Mr Forsyth spoke of closer ties with the English over 700 years, while Mr Robertson said the homecoming represented the start of a new era.

The return, however, has not pleased everyone. The sense of loss at Westminster Abbey – from where the stone was taken and to where it will return for future coronations – is palpable.

And among many Scots, the handing back of the stone is seen as patronising. "It's a nice gimmick to get Michael Forsyth re-elected, but it isn't enough," said Allan Petrie, a member of Dundee Scottish National Party, one of a number whose attempt to demonstrate against the return was quickly snuffed out.

"There are people going hungry and people without jobs and yet they spend thousands on this silly ceremony. We won't be happy until we get full independence, not the return of a piece of sandstone."

The condition of the stone is being assessed by specialists before being put on display at Edinburgh Castle at the end of the month. And more than one canny Scot was quick to point out yesterday that the fee to view the stone will be £5.50. While on show in England, it was free.



Stone home: Edinburgh Castle, where the Stone of Destiny will be kept



Taking the high road: the stone arrives at the Coldstream bridge on the border between Scotland and England to be handed over to the Kings Own Scottish Borderers

Photograph: John Voss

£17m fund for breast implant victims

Ian Burrell

Hundreds of British women have won the right to sue for a share of a \$25m (£17m) fund set aside for victims of faulty silicone breast implants.

Lawyers acting for three American companies which produced them agreed yesterday that British women should be entitled to compensation. Some may now win tens of thousands of pounds.

A court in Alabama last year ruled that only American women should be allowed to claim damages for injuries caused when the implants ruptured or led to silicone-related diseases.

Lawyers representing women in London, Nottingham and Sheffield appealed against the decision, along with others outside the US.

In what was described as a breakthrough for the British victims, lawyers representing the US companies, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Baxter and 3M, agreed that the foreign women had a right to compensation and said that a \$25m fund had been ring-fenced to pay them.

Paul Balen, of Freeth, Cartwright, Hunt, Dickins, in Nottingham, said of the decision: "I suspect that it will affect thousands of British women but that only hundreds will qualify for compensation because they have to be able to prove the source of the implant and the injury it caused."

Women will not be able to claim if their implants were provided by Dow-Corning, another American company which was the largest manufacturer of implants. It was the subject of an earlier global action.

So many claimants came forward to sue Dow-Corning that the company made it itself bankrupt rather than face the courts. Victims are still fighting for compensation. British women with a claim against it have until 14 February to claim. A separate action was brought against the three other companies. In an order to be made by the judge supervising the breast implant settlement, the three manufacturers have agreed to "settle the claims of all foreign claimants."

Only women who have already registered claims as part of the earlier global settlement will be entitled to seek a share of the \$25m fund. An estimated 10,000 British women have registered claims.

In the UK, 100,000 women have breast implants which are not entirely their own. Of these, 60,000 chose to have the extra bits for cosmetic reasons while 40,000 had implants after operations for breast cancer.

Most implants are made of a silicone envelope with a liquid of gel-like silicone filling. Silicone was assumed to be inert until the late-Eighties when evidence emerged in America that it could "bleed" and provoke skin and joint inflammation and diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis.

In the past four years there have been 18 studies of possible links between silicone and certain diseases and none has found a connection. One of the biggest, at Harvard Medical School, examined 87,500 nurses of whom 12,000 had implants. It found no greater incidence of illness among women who had implants than those who had not.

Julian Barnes's story on the art of making money

David Lister
Art News Editor

The text is by Julian Barnes. The pictures are by the celebrated British colourist Howard Hodgkin. It is only a short story, and the book is not much bigger than a compact disc. But it will set you back £750 for the basic version, and £1,500 for the full-blown, leather-bound version, each one on hand-painted blue paper.

Artists' books – books with a painter creating individual prints for each copy – are, not surprisingly, a rarity. Samuel Beckett collaborated with Jasper Johns and more than 20 years ago David Hockney did one of the Grimsby Fair Tales, but there have been few since.

The man who wants to revitalise the genre and is behind the Barnes/Hodgkin venture, is 46-year-old Simon Draper. In the Seventies he co-founded Virgin Records with Richard Branson. It was he, not Branson, who discovered Mike Oldfield and his *Tubular Bells* which gave the label its place in music history.

Bored with the music industry, Mr Draper left Virgin in 1992 and set up Palawan Press, which has so far dealt mainly in exclusive mail order.

It has published a lavish guide to Ferrari cars (£1,000 a copy) and an equally lavish guide to Aston Martins (£750).

Mr Draper had known Julian Barnes through a shared enthusiasm for wine. They met at a tasting. Both also knew

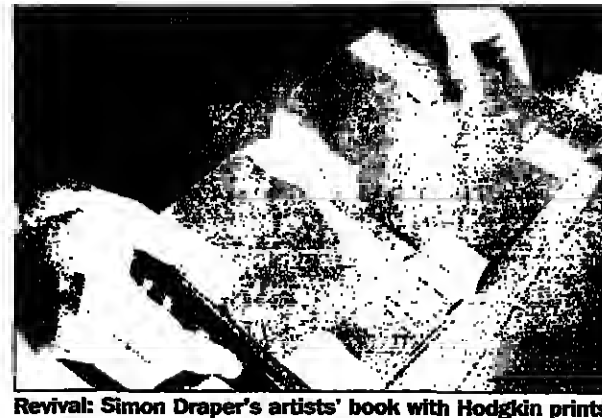
the former Turner Prize winner Howard Hodgkin, who was eager to see Mr Draper's Sussex mansion, designed by Lutyens. Over dinner they formulated the idea of a collaboration between Barnes and Hodgkin. The book consists of Barnes' short story, *Evermore* – about an Englishwoman's obsessive visits to her brother's First World War grave – already in his recent collection, *Cross Channel*.

Hodgkin then spent six months interspersing his vibrant hand-coloured prints. Each volume is unique, with the shades and density of Hodgkin's colourings differing slightly from volume to volume. Fifty numbered, £1,500 editions encased in a silver book-cloth portfolio box also contain two Hodgkin prints.

These sell at £500 each, the investment can be seen as being partly paid back. The 150 regular editions still have individual Hodgkin prints as illustrations.

Mr Draper, an art collector, says that even seen just as an investment these books should more than pay for themselves in years to come. But he is uncomfortable at the thought of them being viewed merely as investments.

"Making money hasn't been the principal driving force to produce the books... I believe in artists' books... You can frame a Howard Hodgkin print and put it on the wall. It's more accessible. But a book you have to get out. Enjoying it is a more considered activity. This is in some ways an idealistic venture."



Revival: Simon Draper's artists' book with Hodgkin prints

THE BBC INVITE YOU TO

You can now experience the amazing interactive worlds of Wallace and Gromit, Mastermind, Noddy and The Animals Of Farthing Wood

VIEW THEIR LATEST

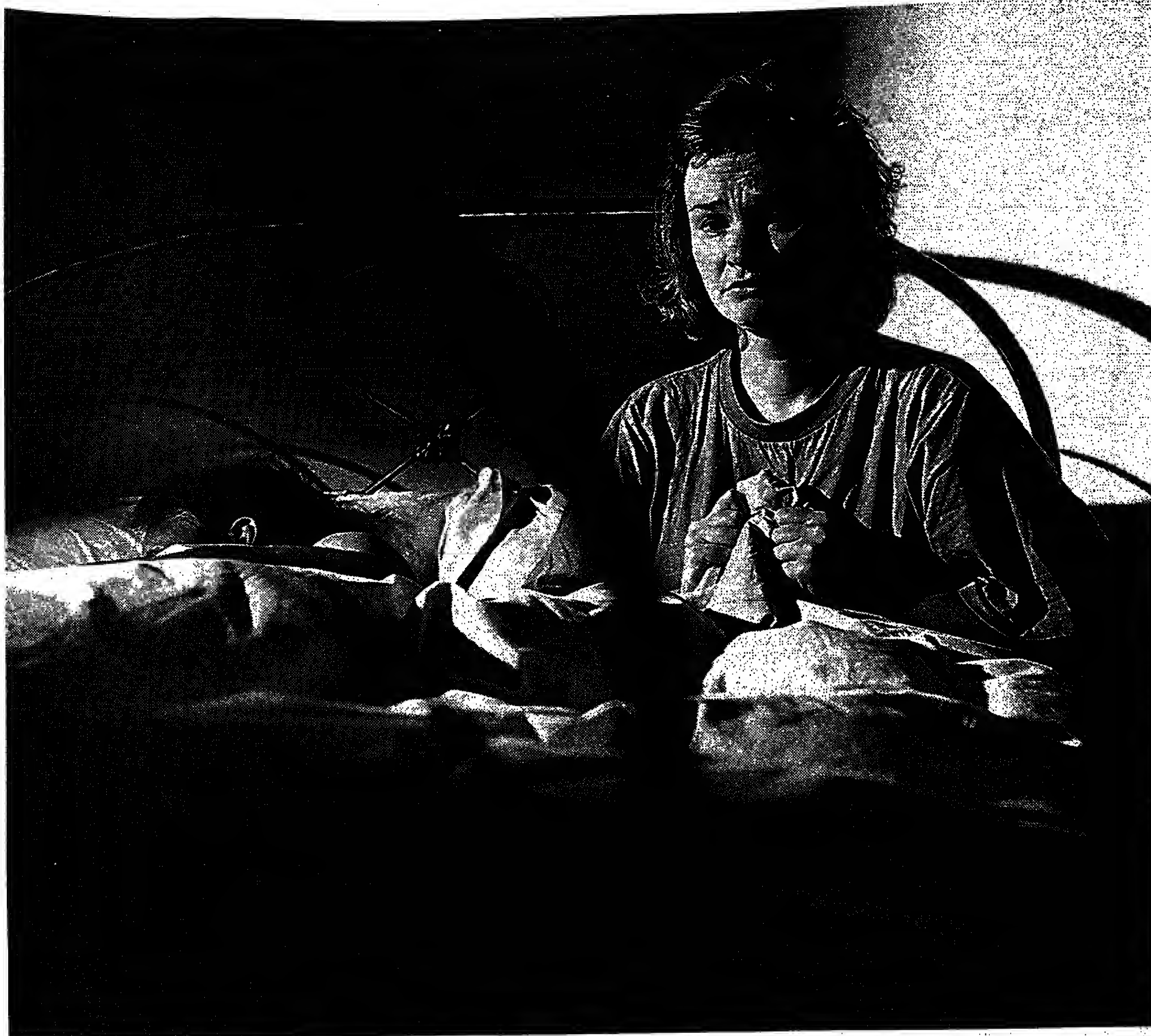
on four exciting new CD-ROM releases from BBC Multimedia.

PROGRAMS

They're essential viewing at all good software stockists.

60 years of experience

هكذا من الأصل



When you just can't talk to anyone, talk to us.

Despair doesn't work nine to five. Despair comes in the small hours of the night, or on Christmas Day. It comes at weekends, or when you're surrounded by people.

Samaritans work round the clock, every day of the year. When you pick up the phone, there'll be someone there to help pick up the pieces.

You won't be put on hold, or put through a grilling. And you won't be judged or talked down to.

Our number's in the phone book, or you can call our new national number on 0345 90 90 90. Every call is confidential. We'll be there to talk to you.

The Samaritans. We'll go through it with you.

A Registered Charity funded by voluntary donations.

<http://www.compulink.co.uk/~careware/samaritans/>

طبيب من الامل

150 من المجلد

He's 51, she's 49. They're in constant pain, but their remedy is illegal. It's cannabis

Richard Smith

John Fordham has a debilitating disease which is causing his spine to crumble and will eventually leave him in a wheelchair. Aged 51, the former builder also suffers from asthma and emphysema. He is in so much pain that he can't sleep at night.

His wife Ruth, 49, has had three heart operations, a double mastectomy and conquered cervical cancer. She is in constant pain from arthritis and cannot sleep at night.

But despite trying all manner of pills and tablets, medical science can't help them.

Instead, the couple, who live in a one-bedroom council flat in Stockwood, Bristol, turned to an age-old herbal remedy - cannabis. It helped ease the pain at night, and reduced their stress during the day.

However, the hope that it once offered has now been taken away after police found four cannabis plants growing among the tomatoes and lettuce in their greenhouse.

They both admitted cultivating the drug but were given a one-year conditional discharge after Bristol magistrates heard that although doctors had prescribed a cocktail of pills, smoking cannabis was the only way the couple could sleep.

Mr Fordham, aged 51, was forced to stop work five years ago. He takes 10 tablets a day - pain killers, anti-inflammatories and sleeping pills.

"The pills are not much good because the sleeping tablets give me nightmares and I get stomach pains from the anti-inflammatories," he said.

"But cannabis has been around since Biblical times and at least it gives me a good night's sleep - and you can't overdose on it either. It helps me relax and gives me a little inspiration to go out and potter around in the garden."

"The Government is content to rake in taxes from cigarettes and alcohol even though they ruin people's health. But because we are trying to relieve a bit of pain in our own way they jump on us - it just does not make sense."

He has been married to Ruth for 26 years and have two grown-up sons, Max Fordham,



Joint relief: John and Ruth Fordham from Bristol who have called for a change in the law after being convicted of using cannabis to ease suffering. Photograph: John Lawrence

said she began taking cannabis when she was 15 after her second heart operation.

"I was unable to sleep and in a lot of pain - physically and mentally I was going through hell and I couldn't handle the painkillers," she said.

"A friend asked if I wanted to try some cannabis to see if it would help - and it did. I've used it when I've needed it since."

She said her husband started using it after he also found himself in great pain. She

stressed that they have never taken the drug for pleasure.

Police have warned the couple they will make future checks and Mrs Fordham insists they will not cultivate the drug again. "But we can't risk growing cannabis again. We got caught,

we were given a lenient sentence and now we will have to cope.

"By evening my husband is near enough crying with pain and it's going to be extremely difficult. I feel despair for the future - not just for us but for people who are in worse pain

and could benefit if doctors were allowed to prescribe it."

GPs have been unable to prescribe cannabis for pain relief since the Misuse of Drugs Act made it illegal in 1971.

The Fordham's solicitor, Robert Morgan-Jones, said:

"This is not a case of cannabis being used as a recreational drug but it helps them get through the day."

"If it is legalised they will be the first on the list for a prescription. They are otherwise law-abiding citizens."

'Jackal' quizzed on UK shooting

Jason Bennett
Crime Correspondent

Anti-terrorist officers from Scotland Yard are to question "Carlos the Jackal", once the world's most wanted man, about the shooting of a leading businessman in London more than two decades ago. The Metropolitan Police officers have travelled to Paris where he is awaiting trial.

"Carlos", Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, 47, is wanted for the 1973 shooting of Joseph Sieff, then president of Marks & Spencer and vice-president of the Zionist Federation in Britain.

Mr Sieff was attacked at his home in St John's Wood, north London. He survived thanks to exceptionally strong teeth which reduced the bullet's impact, and to his wife, who turned him over on his stomach to stop him choking. He was paralysed for a time, but recovered almost fully and lived for nine years.

Carlos reportedly told *Al Watan al Arabi*, a Paris-based magazine, in 1979 that he had been the gunman. "I usually fire three times around the nose," he said. "But ... only one bullet went off, though I fired three times."

Carlos allegedly hid the gun at the west London flat of a Basque woman, one of several girlfriends in London, where it was later found.

A Scotland Yard spokeswoman said: "We have officers in France liaising with the French police in connection with a man in custody in France. This is part of an on-going inquiry into terrorist activities in the United Kingdom in the 1970s."

Police sources discounted suggestions that the action had been prompted by the release of a new book about Carlos. It is understood that the family of Mr Sieff have been pressing the police to make further inquiries.

There was no immediate suggestion that Carlos would face charges in Britain, however.

The Venezuelan-born self-styled revolutionary is accused of killing at least 83 people. He was captured in Sudan in 1994 and is awaiting trial in Paris for up to 15 murders.

CENTRAL AFRICA URGENT APPEAL FOR AID

More than a million people are fleeing the fighting in Zaire. Without urgent help, thousands of innocent victims could die.

Clean water, food, medical supplies and shelter are desperately needed. The Red Cross is organising emergency supplies of aid right now, so your help is vital.

Red Cross workers are well placed to provide this aid as soon as it arrives. Please phone now to give as much as you can. Just £25 could feed 35 refugees for one week.

Your money can help the Red Cross save lives.

Please call now with your credit card donation.

0345 315 315

QUOTING REFERENCE 3437

Or you can send a cheque or postal order with the coupon below.



British Red Cross

Caring for people in crisis

Registered Charity No. 229844

I enclose a cheque/postal order (payable to British Red Cross) for

☐ £25 ☐ £50 ☐ £35 ☐ £25 Other £

Or please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Amex/Diners Club/Switch Card

No. Expiry Date

Today's date Signature

Mr Mrs/Ms/Ms

Address

Postcode Tel

Please please send this coupon with your donation to:

THE CENTRAL AFRICA URGENT APPEAL, BRITISH RED CROSS,

ROOM 407, ROYAL EXHIBITION, LONDON SW7 2PX

*A donation of £250 or more is worth a third as much again through Gift Aid as we can reclaim the tax. Please ensure you complete your address details.

☐ Please tick this box if you do not want to receive further information on the Red Cross.

☐ Tick this box if you would like a receipt. 3437/26-11-96

How Do You Feel About £10 Worth Of Free Calls?



First Telecom offers international and national calls at up to 60% less than other networks.

Unlike some of our competitors, we can always be relied on for fantastic savings, friendly service and crystal clear connections.

One call from your existing touch tone phone links you to the world's largest and most dependable fibre optic network. There are no connection fees or line rental charges.

And for those of you feeling let down by your existing long distance service provider, here's a special offer to put a smile on your face.

Switch to First Telecom by 30 November 1996 and we'll give you £10 worth of calls FREE OF CHARGE.



FIRST TELECOM

THE FUTURE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

0800 376 6666

New rail line will destroy heritage trail for just two trains a week



On your bike: The plan to rebuild a railway along the Camel Trail would spoil prospects for cyclists and walkers on one of Cornwall's most popular paths

Photograph: Apex

Christian Wolmar

Almost £700,000 is to be spent on restoring a railway line to be used by only two or three trains a week and which will destroy part of a tourist attraction.

Residents near Bodmin in north Cornwall are planning a legal challenge against the ministerial decision because the scheme to restore the line, promoted by a company in which the local Liberal MP is a shareholder, was twice turned down by a planning inspector.

The decision by John Watts, the transport minister, has further baffled those living near the former Bodmin and Wenford line because there is only one possible user, English China Clays, and there are doubts

whether it will make use of it. The controversy sets two environmentally friendly Government policies against each other, transferring freight from road to rail and encouraging cycling and walking. Bringing back trains would take six miles out of the Camel Trail, a 17-mile

walk along a disused railway. The trail attracts 350,000 cyclists and walkers per year. The £1.37m scheme is proposed by a rail preservation society, the Bodmin and Wenford Steam Railway, which says that the line would be only for freight.

Paul Tyler, the MP for North Cornwall who is a shareholder in the society, says he has "made no representations either way". However, 00c resident, Gabrielle Moulder, who lives next to the line says: "If he were representing local views, he would be opposed to the line."

Another opponent, Richard Moore, says that only around 20 lorries a day would be taken off the road. "To destroy a big tourist attraction for such small traffic is just not worthwhile." The scheme would only be viable for a freight facilities grant from the Government - in this

case around £685,000. English China Clays did not appear at either of the two planning inquiries which rejected the scheme. But the company has stressed it will only use the line if it is viable. Mike Ripley, the logistics director, said: "We are absolutely neutral. We will only use the line if the cost is the same price or cheaper."

Roger Webster, manager of the steam railway company said: "We realise it would damage the Camel trail but it would take traffic off the roads."

Ms Moulder said: "They really are a bunch of train nuts who want to play with their trains. They want to boast that they are the first private preservation railway to run freight."

Letters, page 15



Steam days: The bodmin to wadebridge line in 1834

Photograph: Science and Society Picture Library

Lib Dems face cash-for-lunch scandal

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

The chances of a Nolan Committee probe into party political funding increased yesterday after the Liberal Democrats were accused of offering companies a "cash for contracts" deal.

In a letter sent out last July, the party invited business contacts to a party conference lunch at which they could meet Liberal Democrat councillors.

The letter left little to the imagination, saying: "These councillors all control a council, solely or with the assistance of another party."

"The cost of attending the lunch is £195 for each attendee. A list of companies attending will be published and mailed to all Liberal Democrat councillors (5,000 plus) throughout the country and a leading council-

lor contact list will be provided to each attendee."

As for the opportunities such contacts might open up, the letter said: "An average district council spends over £300,000 on construction... many thousands on construction... The spectra of opportunities cover every subject from paper clips to plastic cups."

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, said yesterday: "The Liberal Democrat Party has been caught with its hand in the till. For the Liberal Democrats to demand that businessmen pay £195 so as to have access to preferential information about council contracts is a clear case of cash for contracts."

Saying the letter represented the "worst sort of sleaze", Mr Mawhinney called on Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown to provide Lord Nolan's

Committee on Standards in Public Life with details of all contacts and contracts that had come from the lunch.

"I hope on this occasion they will do that. Perhaps it should go to the Nolan committee."

But as Mr Ashdown himself said later, any investigation by Lord Nolan - which the Liberal Democrat leader appeared willing to instigate - would need to take in similar operations by the Conservative and Labour parties.

Mr Ashdown said: "On the face of it, this is exactly what every other party does: it's exactly in line with the normal practice... but if there is any doubt about this, I am perfectly happy that the party should put this before Lord Nolan."

However, a party statement later said that the £195 was not fund raising, but was charged to cover "administration costs".

Labour offers £2,000 package to jobless

Anthony Bevins

A £2,000 personal package to help hundreds of thousands of long-term unemployed people back to work was introduced by Labour education spokesman David Blunkett, yesterday.

He told a conference in Nottingham that a Labour government would set up pilot schemes to offer three choices to people who had been unemployed for more than a year.

They would be offered "a personal job account" and three six-month routes from welfare to work, financed by the money that would otherwise be spent on benefits and schemes such as Training for Work.

It is estimated that the national account, which could be topped up by European money in unemployment black spots, could be worth an average £2,000 over the six months.

The money would be paid out weekly, not in a lump sum.

Mr Blunkett said the three back-to-work options were: Neighbourhood Match, offering work experience and skills training for people on local regeneration schemes; Learning for Work, offering education for a work-related qualification; and Business Start, giving assistance for people to start their own business.

He said each pilot scheme would be carefully appraised, "especially its ability to yield net savings to the public purse".

But Mr Blunkett added that additional action would have to be taken to help people who had been out of work for more than two years. "For them, we shall offer Job Plus - this will be a regular private-sector job, plus training, including an element of employer rebate," he said. "The rebate would be funded by the

windfall key on the excess profits of the privatised utilities."

Mr Blunkett said a similar programme had been tried with the Tories' Workstart pilots, which had had the greatest take-up amongst smaller companies. "However, smaller companies are less likely to be able to provide the training needed to equip the employee with the skills needed to move into unsupported employment."

"That is why we are proposing a more substantial rebate... we have suggested £75 per week for six months when taking on somebody unemployed for more than two years - insisting that training should be a key element."

Crisis worsens in Africa PLEASE HELP

The tragedy in Central Africa is growing. Hundreds of thousands of people are in flight from the bloodshed, only to face death by thirst, starvation and disease.

ACTIONAID is planning to help by:

- Providing trucks and fuel to transport relief supplies to those in need.
- Rebuilding lives and communities in the longer term.

Please give what you can today to help us relieve the suffering.

Please call our credit card hotline on:

0800 482 400

EMERGENCY EMERGENCY EMERGENCY

Yes, I want to help ACTIONAID help people in Central Africa.

Here is my donation of £100 £50 £25 £10 £5

My cheque/PS is payable to ACTIONAID and sent by ACTIONAID FREEPOST 25484

Don't forget to add my name to the mailing list

My name is my address is

My telephone is my fax is

My e-mail is

My signature is

My date of birth is

My date of completion is

ACTIONAID

Keep in touch with all your customers

Imagine being able to mail your customers without resorting to stamps or a franking machine. Or sending an important document across the world in a few seconds without using a courier or paying excessive charges. With the help of IBM Software Servers, you'll find keeping in touch with e-mail and faxes is extremely cost-effective. (Or to put it another way, it costs next to nothing!) And as it only takes a few moments to send a message, you won't just save time. You will end up saving money as well. We've prepared a special guide that tells you all about the Internet and what it can do for your business. For your free copy, return the coupon or call 01705 498 151. You never know, it could be one of the last letters you'll ever send.



for a tiny bit less.

Lotus Notes • DB2 Database Server • Internet Connection Server • Communications Server • Transaction Server • Directory & Security Server • Tivoli Management Servers

☐ Yes, I would like to receive my free copy of "The Internet, a Business guide"

Name:

Surname:

Job title:

Company:

Address:

City:

Post code:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Send this coupon to: IBM United Kingdom Limited, Freepost PT332, PO Box 11, North Harbour, Portsmouth PO1 1AU, or fax it to: 01705 221111.

The IBM home page is located at www.ibm.com

IBM

Solutions for a small planet

سكوا من الأصل

1501 من الامن

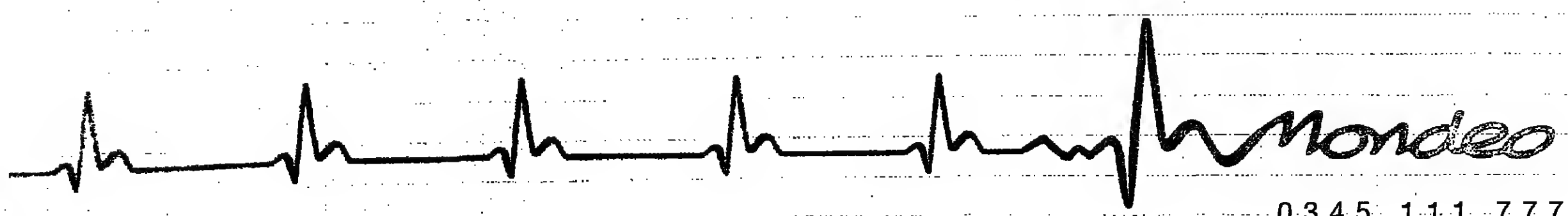


The new Mondeo.

It makes more sense to tell you
what other people think of it.

<p>"New Ford Mondeo. The best family car in the world" <small>Front cover Autocar 9 October 1996</small></p>	<p>"BMW and Mercedes drivers might think they have more cachet in their cars, but I guarantee that motorists who enjoy driving would not walk away from a Mondeo 24V after a test. It really is that good." <small>The Times October 5 1996</small></p>	<p>"So complete is this new package that we firmly believe the new Mondeo to be the best car in its class." <small>Autocar 9 October 1996</small></p>
<p>"2.5-litre V6 engine has torque and rasping power that will leave many a sports car gasping." <small>The Times October 5 1996</small></p>	<p>"It's sharp, fresh, bold, modern and above all distinctive." <small>Top Gear Magazine November 1996</small></p>	

It brings you to your senses.



0345 111 777
www.Ford.co.uk

Why we are sending thousands of Mission's first goal to stop killing

David Orr
Kinshasa

The multinational intervention force due to be dispatched to eastern Zaire in the coming days will have two principal objectives. The first will be to establish a security presence in the region of conflict so that humanitarian aid can be distributed to hundreds of thousands of refugees and civilians displaced by fighting. The second aim will be to ensure the continued flow of refugees returning home to Rwanda.

The unexpected exodus of hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees from Mungu, until yesterday the only refugee camp remaining open in eastern Zaire, will make the job of the aid organisations and of the intervention force considerably easier. The refugees have themselves opened up a corridor along which to return home. It will now be possible to distribute large quantities of aid to the returnees inside Rwanda, away from the war zone.

However, the majority of the refugees (mostly Rwandan but also Burundian) and thousands of Zairean citizens remain hidden in the hills and forests of eastern Zaire. They are separated from help by the continuing conflict and by the inaccessibility of the terrain.

It is a month since fighting between the Zairean army and Tutsi rebels from eastern Zaire's

Banyamulongo community forced the refugees to start fleeing their camps and civilians to leave their homes. More than a million uprooted people are estimated to have taken to the jungle in eastern Zaire. Little is known about their condition, but hunger, thirst and disease - including cholera - are undoubtedly taking their toll. Initially launched to resist persecution by the Zairean au-

thorities, the Banyamulongo campaign quickly gained a dynamic with much wider reaching regional implications. With the support of Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated army, the rebels routed the Zairean army. Burundi and Uganda also stood accused of involvement by the Zairean government.

Now that the Rwandan troops have withdrawn across their border, the Tutsi insurgents

have been joined by fighters from other groups committed to toppling the regime of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Engaging the insurgents are Hutu, some indigenous but mostly Rwandan militants who have been based in the refugee camps established following the 1994 Rwanda genocide. The Rwandan Hutu refugees have been intimidated into staying so long in Zaire by the extremists.

As fighting continues, particularly around Goma, which has been in Tutsi rebel hands for more than two weeks, diplomatic efforts are concentrating on securing some form of ceasefire before the deployment of the multinational force.

The nations contributing to the force have no wish to engage in the fighting or to forcibly disarm the Rwandan Hutu militias. Yesterday's mass migration of refugees back to Rwanda was the first indication that the Interahamwe are beginning to lose their stranglehold over the exiled masses. As fighting closed in around Mungu, the fleeing militias ordered the refugees to follow them into the Zairean bush. It seems almost none complied with the order.

Committed to regaining their homeland by force, the Interahamwe and exiled members of the former Rwandan army have for the past two years been a source of instability to Rwanda and the region. Until all the refugees return home and the Hutu extremists are disarmed, the threat of long-term unrest remains.

The bulk of refugees which has fled to the interior of Zaire seems to have become dispersed over a large area. The last food supplies they received before leaving the camps are believed to have run out a week ago. A humanitarian catastrophe is feared if food and medicines cannot be delivered soon.

The difference between a Hutu and a Tutsi

John Lichfield

The murderous antagonism between Hutus and Tutsis in Rwanda and Burundi is not a tribal conflict. It is not, properly speaking, an ethnic conflict. By all the most common definitions, Hutus and Tutsis are the same people, which makes their violent history even more tragically incomprehensible to outsiders.

And yet, outsiders may be partly to blame. The differences between the two communities were greatly emphasised by the European invaders of Rwanda and Burundi, first Germans then Belgians, as an instrument of colonial rule. Hutus and Tutsis have the same language, the same religion; the

same culture. They have lived inter-mingled for centuries on the same land, in the most densely populated part of sub-Saharan Africa.

Before the coming of the Europeans, the minority Tutsis were mostly, but not all, aristocratic herders of cattle, the majority Hutus were mostly, but not all, peasant tillers of the soil. According to one theory, the Tutsis were a distinct group which arrived later than the Hutus, living peacefully alongside them in some areas, enslaving them in others.

According to other studies, there is no proof that the two were ever distinct peoples; they may have simply evolved into different social classes or

adopted different ways of life.

Despite the stereotypical variation in appearance - tall Tutsis, squat Hutus - anthropologists say they are ethnically indistinguishable. The oft-quoted difference in height - by no means universal - is roughly the same as the difference between wealthy and poor Europeans in the last century (an average of 12 centimetres).

So why do they hate each other so much? There is an element of class antagonism and a degree of economic competition in the most crowded part of Black Africa. But the passionate hatreds result from 30 years of hysterical propaganda by politicians on both sides in quest of absolute power.



Outward bound: US Air Force personnel board a C-5 transport in Fairfield, California, to join the advance guard heading for Zaire. Photograph: Steve McKay/AP

Which military units will be going in to help

Christopher Bellamy
Defence Correspondent

Reconnaissance teams from the Western nations leading the international intervention in eastern Zaire have begun arriving in central Africa. The first United States teams arrived on Thursday and the first British reconnaissance team, 43-strong, was due to arrive in Nairobi at 6.30 last night, having flown from Brize Norton in Oxfordshire.

The intervention force is deploying under Chapter Seven of the United Nations Charter, in an "enforcement" rather than a peace-keeping role. The troops will concentrate on guaranteeing the delivery of hu-

manitarian aid and helping refugees return home, but will fire back if they or those they are guarding are threatened.

Of the 75 nations represented at the UN meeting in New York as yet only Canada, the US, Britain, France, Spain and six African countries appear committed to providing troops.

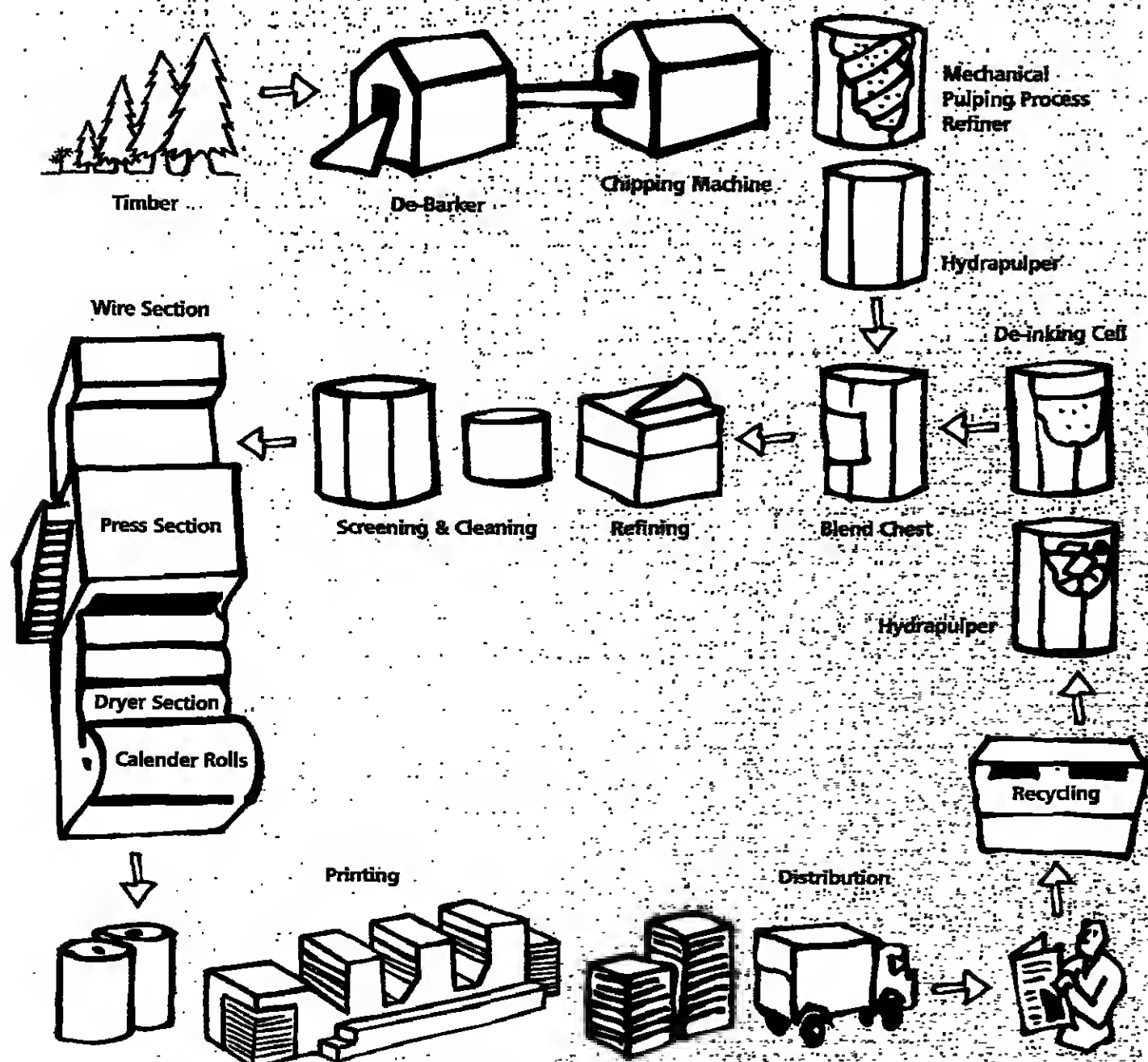
The headquarters of operation "Phoenix Task" will be Goma, the major airfield and centre of refugee movement. Yesterday, 10,000 refugees from the five camps around Goma were reported to be moving back through the town and south-east into Rwanda, the first of an estimated 300,000-400,000. The operation will be commanded by

the 1st Canadian Division, under General Maurice Baril. Canada is sending a force of 1,500 in all.

US troops will also head for Goma. About 1,000 US troops are expected to be deployed on the ground; another 2,000 to 3,000 are expected to be based in Uganda and Kenya. The US will probably provide the majority of the air transport.

Britain and France are likely to secure the airport at Bukavu. Britain is planning to send the headquarters of 5 Airborne Brigade, troops from 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment and 45 Commando, Royal Marines. Ministry of Defence sources said yesterday the British force could reach 3,000.

HERE'S ONE OF THIS PAPER'S BEST STORIES



The Making of your Daily Newspaper

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION DIAL THE FAX BACK NUMBER 0839 393037
Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times
OR WRITE TO: 1 RIVENHALL ROAD, WESTLEA, SWINDON, SN5 7BD
TELEPHONE: 01793 879229 FAX: 01793 886182

Issued by the NEWSPRINT & NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP



Children suffer in Zaire crisis

Will you help?

As the terror continues in Eastern Zaire, over a million people are fleeing for their lives. Among them are countless children who are hungry, vulnerable and terrified.

Aid agency Children's Aid Direct believe that the only lasting solution is for the Rwandan refugees to return home voluntarily. Executive Director David Grubb says "until the refugees can return home safely to Rwanda our priority is to send emergency aid to them."

For two years Children's Aid Direct have been helping families in Rwanda to return to normal community life. They need your support today to help keep the refugees alive and to provide families returning home with the seed, tools and healthcare they need to rebuild their lives.



Vulnerable children need your help today

Please join Children's Aid Direct in giving these children the future they deserve. £30 could feed 150 children for a day.

Will you send £30 now to give the children a chance?

Yes, I want to give the children a chance

Here is my gift of: £30 ☐ £50 ☐ £80 ☐ £250 ☐ £ (other) ☐

*A gift of £250 or more is worth almost an extra third to us under Gift Aid

Please make your cheque payable to Children's Aid Direct

OR Please debit £ from my ☐ Visa ☐ Access ☐ Switch card

CARD NUMBER

Last three digits of Switch card no. Switch issue no.

EXPIRY DATE SIGNATURE

NAME (CAPS) MR/MRS/MS

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE

OR please phone our donation line

0990 600 610

Please send to: Children's Aid Direct, Dept No. 480
FREEPOST, Reading RG1 1BR. Registered Charity No. 803236.

Children's Aid Direct

Formerly known as PHOENIX TASK

PHOENIX TASK

مكتبة الامم

GUIDE TO THE ZAIRE CRISIS

soldiers to help save the refugees

Tutsis were told to leave or die

Mary Braid

When rebellion began suddenly to sweep through eastern Zaire last month, the Banyamulenge, Tutsis who had lived in the region for generations, were reported to be responsible. It now seems likely that while the Banyamulenge were launching an insurrection in south Kivu, a number of other non-Tutsi groups, with a shared hatred of Zaire's President Sese Seko Mobutu, were starting rebellions further north.

The provinces of Zaire have a history of launching revolts against Kinshasa

The Banyamulenge were fighting for survival. Local discrimination against them had escalated with the arrival of 2 million Rwandan Hutu refugees in 1994. After murdering 800,000 of their Tutsi countrymen, the Hutu militias brought their racist hatred with them. Their presence gave courage to local politicians who, only weeks before the uprising, had warned the Banyamulenge to leave eastern Zaire or die.

Despite Rwandan government denials that its troops were fighting alongside the rebels in Zaire, the Zairean

The Rebels

Banyamulenge would be expected to receive military and financial support from Rwanda. Some Banyamulenge fought in the Rwandan Patriotic Front which brought the Rwandan Tutsis to power in the wake of the genocide in 1994.

But to ensure that the Zairean refugee camps, used by Hutu militia to launch attacks, were swept from its border, the Rwandan government almost certainly took advantage of the discontent within Zaire.

Many non-Tutsi Zaireans also hated the refugee camps. The arrival of so many people turned the local economy upside down.

The Banyamulenge are, in fact, just one of at least four political groups which have formed the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, which speaks for the rebels. Its aim appears to be Zaire's national regeneration, not the annexation of eastern Zaire to a greater Tutsi homeland with Rwanda, as President Mobutu has alleged.

Laurent Desire Kabila, one of the rebel leaders, is not a Tutsi but a Marxist - a secessionist from Zaire's fiercely independent Shaba province. He and his province have a history of uprisings against Kinshasa. The soldiers in Goma this week came from Shaba and Kasai - also almost autonomous from Kinshasa - as well as Kivu.

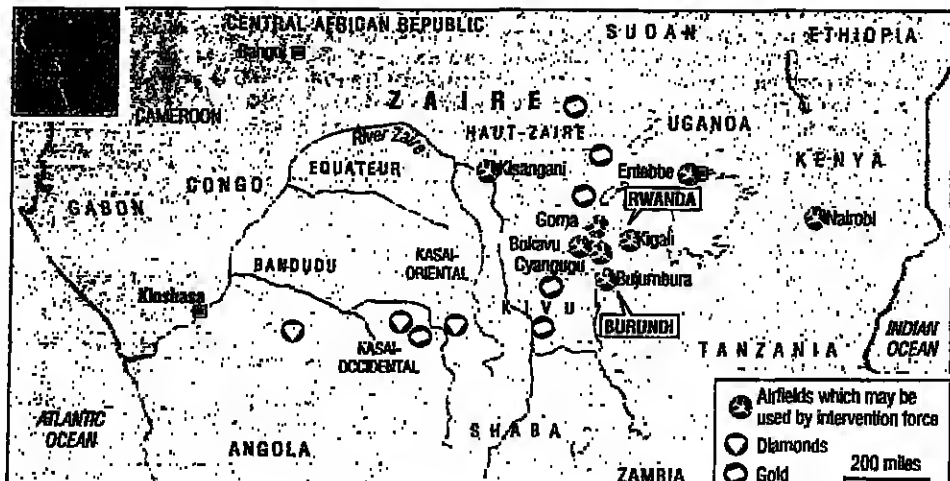
With the international community refusing to disarm the Interahamwe - the Hutu militias who prevented refugees



Long walk: A girl with a baby passes a Zairean soldier searching refugees near Goma. Photograph: Peter Andrew/Reuters

returning home - it is likely that Major-General Paul Kagame, Rwanda's vice-president, saw the potential for a homegrown solution in the growing discontent with Mr Mobutu.

Mr Mobutu's treatment in Europe for prostate cancer may also have presented Rwanda with an opportunity. During his 31-year rule the country has collapsed. Nationhood is a hard idea to foster among 250 language and ethnic groups; it is impossible when corruption and mismanagement have ensured that communications in a country twice the size of France, and with enormous mineral resources have disappeared.



'Nazi' militia that incited genocide

Mary Braid

The Interahamwe - "those who stand together" - is a civilian militia, created by Rwanda's former ruling Hutu elite before the 1994 genocide of 800,000 minority Tutsis, along with moderate Hutus.

The Interahamwe extremists incited the slaughter. Those who met them, wielding machetes at road blocks during the killing spree or later when they led the Hutus into exile in Zaire and assumed control of the refugee camps, compare them to the Nazis.

Just as the Nazis disseminated propaganda against the Jews, the Interahamwe was fed - and fed others - a diet of anti-Tutsi propaganda. It played on deep-seated fears. Under Belgian colonial rule the minority Tutsis were the educated elite and the Hutus mostly second-class citizens. The Hutus seized power before independence in 1959, killing tens of thousands of Tutsis. Many Tutsis fled to Uganda and there were frequent pogroms against those who remained.

The Rwandan Patriotic Front, formed by the Tutsi exiles, fought the Hutu government from 1990. By 1994, a power-sharing agreement seemed likely but the Hutu government was playing a double game. The Interahamwe was strengthening and the country's radio stations were fostering hate; warning that the Tutsis, or "cockroaches", were conspiring to once again enslave Hutus.

On the evening that the

The Hutus

genocide started - precipitated, finally, by the death in a plane crash of the Hutu President, Juvénal Habyarimana - a Kigali radio station broadcast the message "Tutsis need to be killed".

The Interahamwe started work. In exile, the Hutu militias turned UN refugee camps into military bases from which to attack Rwanda, which now has a Tutsi-led government. They taxed their two million refugees.

They taxed refugees to buy weapons and lynched those who tried to go home

many employed by UN associated organisations, to buy weapons and lynched those who tried to go home.

Analysts put the Interahamwe's current strength as high as 70,000, when combined with former members of the Rwandan army in exile.

The would-be international rescuers have been insisting that disarming the Interahamwe and separating them from the refugees was not part of their mandate. They appeared to miss the point. Without that separation there is little hope for the region.

Family to spend Christmas

Microsoft Encarta 97 Encyclopedia.

WATERPROOF WINDPROOF BREATHABLE

SYMPATex

ALL-WEATHER CLOTHING AT

HOUSE OF FRASER

SOVIET CARPET & ART GALLERIES

303-305 Cocklewood Broadway London W19 2

Tel: 0181-452 2445

Open to public: SUNDAYS 10.30-5.30 (weekdays - trade only)

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO HANDMADE RUSS AT UNBEATABLE PRICES

Great selection of paintings, including Soviet Realism. Members of the Fine Art Trade Guild

Guaranteed - Operate Microsoft Office 95 - or your money back!!!

● Written in simple language - not computer Jargon

● A clear step by step guides

● Learn basic features without knowing all functions

From a total novice to office expert in simple easy steps

Introduction to Microsoft Office for Windows gives an introduction to Office 95 and will take you from total novice to complete expert in no time at all. With step by step instructions and in an uncomplicated manner you will learn how the Office 95 programs can be used to their best advantage, including word processing, spreadsheet, presentation graphics, calendar function etc. With 90 clear and easy to understand pages this book is all you need to master all Office 95 programs quickly and efficiently. So confident are we that if after reading "Office for Windows 95" you cannot understand Office for Windows 95 features we will refund your money in full. At £9.95 it's probably the best ever piece of computer equipment you'll ever buy!

ORDER THIS ESSENTIAL BOOK BY PHONE ON 01795 475 555 24 HOURS A DAY - 7 DAYS A WEEK

INTRODUCTION TO MICROSOFT OFFICE FOR WINDOWS 95

Send to: Trent Mail Order Co. Plc., (Dept. L18NOW), 118 West Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 7JL.

You please send me: copy(ies) of "Microsoft Office For Windows" at £9.95 plus £2.00 p.p.h. and I enclose Cheque/PO for £ made payable to "Office For Windows 95" or debit my Access/Visa Card.

No. _____

Postcode _____

If you do not wish to receive further offers from other Trent Mail Order Co. Plc. companies please tick here. _____

Trent Mail Order Co. Plc. Reg No 1126705.

C&G Cash Gift Remortgage Offer

A gift of up to £4,000.

No hassle or fees.

It must be Christmas.

Switch to C&G. Apply by 24 December.

You could be celebrating this Christmas as you look forward to receiving a cash gift of up to £4,000 early in the New Year.

There really is nothing to it.

Simply move your mortgage to C&G - something you can do without any hassle or fees to pay.

- WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE LEGAL WORK INVOLVED FREE OF CHARGE
- NO MORTGAGE INDEMNITY PREMIUM
- NO APPLICATION FEE
- NO VALUATION FEE

You can borrow up to 95% of your property's value and your cash gift will be 2% of the amount you borrow up to a maximum of £4,000.

And when you add the benefit of our competitive mortgage rate and the fact that we don't insist you take out our insurance, you can see the attraction of switching to C&G.

All we ask in return is that you keep the mortgage for five years - or refund the cash gift if you don't.

Visit your nearest C&G or Lloyds Bank branch or call us today and look forward to getting your New Year off to a prosperous start.

CALL US NOW. RING FREE ON 0800 272 131

www.cheltglos.co.uk

C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester

We're run to make you richer

The Cash Gift remortgage is at C&G's standard variable rate. You will need to put down a minimum personal deposit of 5%. The maximum 2% cash gift is £4,000. Typical example: assumes an interest rate of 6.85% and an interest rate of 5.75% secured over 25 years and a purchase price of £75,000. 362 monthly payments of £259.73 net (4 tax at 15%). The original £50,000 must be repaid at the end of the mortgage term. Total amount payable £135,968.62 including an closing redemption administration charge (currently £60). APR 6.22% (variable). Interest rates may vary during the period of the loan. You must be at least 18 years old to apply for a loan. Please ask us if you would like a written quotation. Before agreeing a loan we will normally value the property and will assess your ability to meet the repayments. Any loan will require security in the form of a mortgage over the property. C&G will undertake free of charge all legal work usually connected with a remortgage. Unfortunately, we cannot cover any non-standard additional costs. We will move your mortgage as quickly as possible but we are unable to guarantee that you will receive your cash gift before Christmas.

The Cash Gift must be repaid to us if loans are redeemed within five years. If loans are partly redeemed, the cash gift must be repaid proportionately.

Cheltenham & Gloucester plc Barnet Way Gloucester GL4 3RL

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

international

A religion divided: Intolerance of the secular by the exclusive ultra-orthodox is intensifying power struggles within Judaism

US Jews fear Israel is casting them adrift

Tim Cornwell
Seattle

All the uncertainties of American Jewry, at a time when the Jewish world is rapidly changing, seemed on display at the annual convention of the Council of Jewish Federations in Seattle this week.

As one of the two biggest fund-raising organisations, it funnels an estimated quarter of a billion dollars annually to Jewish causes in Israel and the United States. But while delegates watched cheery videos of teenagers living the "Israel experience", some speakers argued that the differences between the American diaspora and the Jewish state have never been wider.

The old rallying cries - poor, struggling Israel and the plight of oppressed Jews around the world - have faded, it is said.

In a side room, the journalist JJ Goldberg signed copies of his book *Jewish Power*. It explains how the Jewish lobby's clout became the envy of other minority groups, such as American Indians and Asians, establishing an aid pipeline for Israel and reserving 40,000 visas for Jewish refugees.

At the same time, Mr Goldberg described the theme of this year's meeting as "insecurity". Leaders of the 5.5 million Jews in the US are acutely aware of surveys showing that more than half their children will marry outside their faith, and only one-quarter will raise their own children as Jews.

There are increasing difficulties in relations between the diaspora and Israel. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime

Minister, was due to speak at the conference, but he cancelled his trip citing urgent negotiations with the Palestinians. Speaking by satellite, he tried to reach out to a group that is clearly wary of his leadership and unhappy with his politics.



Netanyahu: 'Assimilation is greatest threat to Jews'

The response was tepid at best. "There is real anxiety that even though he has legitimate security concerns, they may obstruct the peace process, and American Jews are pretty solidly behind it," Howard Bloom, of Omaha, Nebraska, said.

Mr Netanyahu spoke of a "silent holocaust" from assimilation, which had taken over from anti-Semitism as "the greatest threat to our continued life". He called for a "human airlift" of young Jews to Israel to imbue them with Jewish values.

His tone was combative over concessions in Hebron as he described it as a place not with 400 Jews living there now but with 4,000 years of Jewish history. The Palestinian police "sup-

posed to defend the hills that we are supposed to vacate are the very police that used their rifles on our people", he said.

Mr Netanyahu spent some time, however, dismissing as "rumour" the fears about a proposed new law in Israel. The bill, pushed by Israeli conservatives, would give Orthodox rabbis the sole right to perform conversions of non-Jews.

The issue has taken on enormous symbolic importance for the majority of practising US Jews, members of conservative and reform congregations who follow a more liberal interpretation of the Torah, and feel their beliefs are being slighted. They fear that Israeli citizenship rights for themselves and their children could be under threat if conversions by reform and conservative rabbis are not recognised.

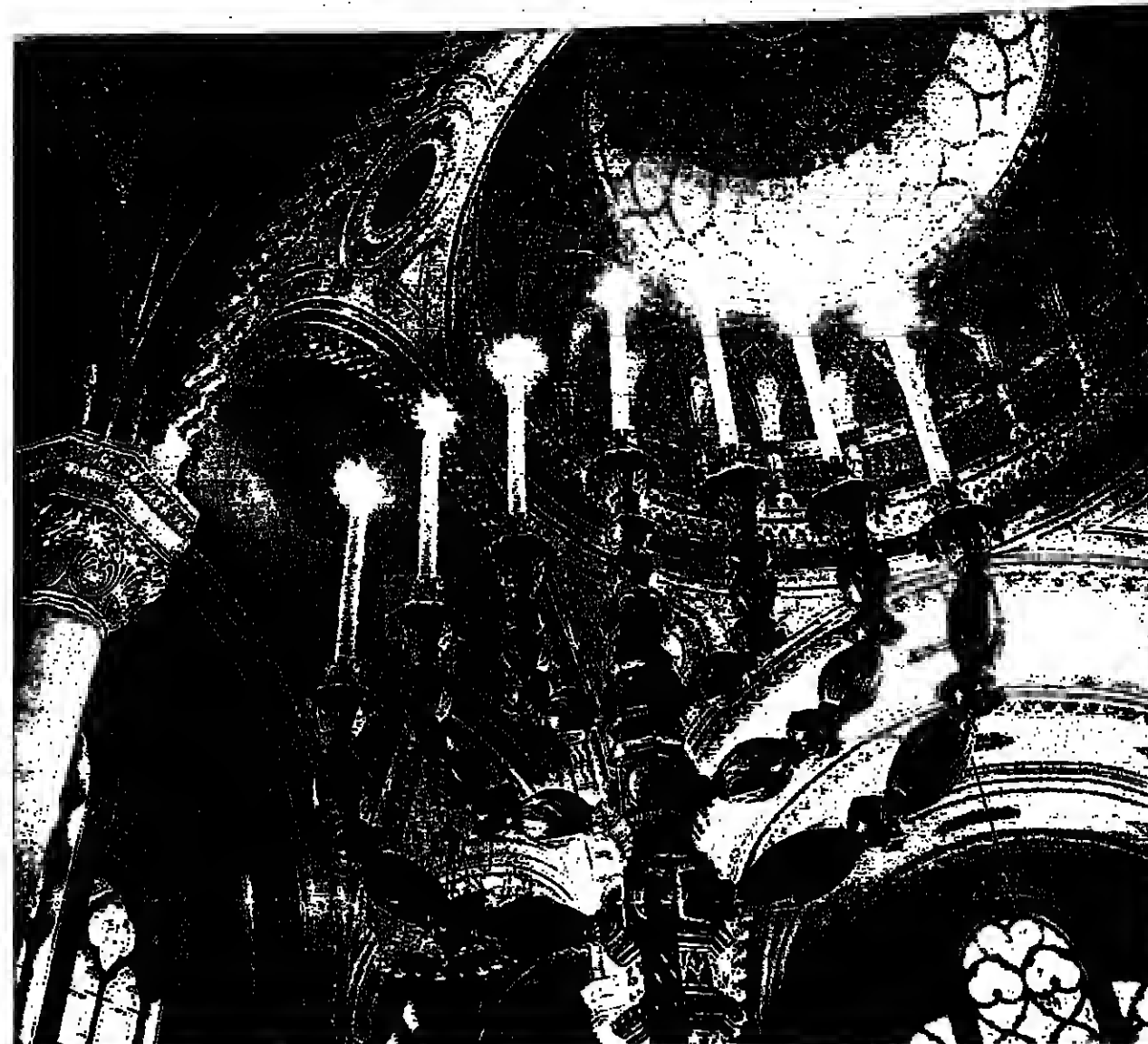
In a press conference, the leading reformer Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman called the proposed legislation an "anathema to the Zionist dream".

"It's a real concern, an emotional concern," a 63-year-old Seattle resident, Goldie Silverman, said. Under the new law, her two grandchildren might not be considered converted, she

said. "We sang the songs, we worried in the war, we feel the connection to Israel," she said. "Israel doesn't feel the connection to us?"

More than once this week, the 3,000 delegates gathered in a year-touted as the 100th birthday of Zionism were warned not to treat Israel as an "ethnic theme park" to be visited for the occasional thrill. Dr Arnold Eisen, a celebrated religious scholar at Stanford University, described at one session a World Wide Web page on the Internet where visitors can click to have an electronic-mail message printed and posted on the Western Wall. "I ask myself, is this serious, is this real?" he said.

Dr Eisen's speech, using the theme of being Jewish in a virtual world to warn of traditional communities under siege from a highly mobile, trivialising popular culture, seemed to match the mood of many of his listeners. "There simply will not be many Jews in North America a generation or two from now unless we reimagine and reconstruct our communities," he said. At only 2 per cent of the US population, Jewish numbers were shrinking "because critical mass matters and we don't have it".



House of worship: Synagogue in Szeged, Hungary, from a photographic exhibition, *Historic Synagogues of the World*, at the Jewish Museum, north London, from 26 November to 27 March. Photograph: Neil Folberg

Haredi tighten grip on Jerusalem

Patrick Cockburn
Jerusalem

When a group of Jewish women tried to pray at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem this week wearing skull-caps, normally a male prerogative, they were attacked by ultra-orthodox men who spat at them and hurled chairs, shouting "bitches" and "Nazis".

In a later confrontation Yigal Bibi, deputy minister of religious affairs, denounced the women, seen as secular in Israel, for seeking religious equality with men, asking: "Why do you defile this place?" He said secular Jews had beaches, theatres and discotheques, while the religious had only the Wall.

The display of violence and intolerance by the ultra-orthodox or Haredi, in their black hats and coats, was the latest episode in the struggle between secular and fundamentalist Jews for control of Jerusalem. No less than 40 per cent of secular Jews in Jerusalem say they want to leave, and the most common reason given is bad relations with the Haredi.

"The major issue for the Jewish population is not relations between Jews and Arabs, but between Haredi Jews and secular Jews," said Professor Amiram Gonen of the Floersheimer Institute for Policy Studies which carried out the survey. "The secular Jews feel they are being suffocated."

The strength of the ultra-orthodox community is visible in Bar-Ilan street in northern Jerusalem, where the Haredim want in close an important thoroughfare to all traffic during the Sabbath. For secular Jews the future of Bar-Ilan street, scene of repeated battles over the summer, is a symbol of their embattled status in the city as a whole.

But their real fear is demographic. Ultra-orthodox women have three times as many babies as secular Jews. They now number almost 30 per cent of the Jewish population of Jerusalem and they have come to dominate the north side of the city. Already 55 per cent of children in kindergartens come from ultra-orthodox families.

Secular and traditional Jews feel menaced by the deeply exclusive ultra-orthodox. Originating in Poland and Lithuania in the 18th century the Haredi (meaning God fearing) live in tight communities led by their rabbis and united by strict dietary and sexual rules and respect for the Sabbath.

In the last 20 years attempts at coexistence have failed. Professor Shlomo Hasson, a senior researcher at the Floersheimer Institute, in a study just published on the struggle, says: "Neighbourhoods adjacent to Jerusalem's Haredi district have gradually changed in character because the secular residents, outnumbered and overwhelmed, are eventually forced to code their neighbourhoods."

While the outside world has focused almost exclusively on the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians the city has been the scene of bitter territorial battles between Jews. In Har Nof in the west, after some attempt at compromise, the secular population was forced to go. In

Israel's High Court is to permit the Shin Bet security police to use "physical pressure" no a prisoner in the form of severe shaking, which human rights groups say amounts to torture, writes Patrick Cockburn.

The detainee is Muhammad Abdel Aziz Khamdan, from the West Bank, who is accused of being a member of the militant Islamic Jihad group and is believed to have information about impending suicide attacks on Israeli targets. He has been interrogated for three weeks at the Russian compound prison in Jerusalem, where his lawyer says he was deprived of sleep, shaken and held in an uncomfortable position.

Ramat Alon in the north, secular Jews fight to control the local administration. In Jerusalem as a whole 250 streets are now closed to traffic on the Sabbath.

In the Eighties the ultra-orthodox protested against symptoms of secularism such as sexually suggestive advertisements. Today they are much more political and effective. In 1993 they enabled Ehud Olmert, the right-wing mayor of Jerusalem, to win office. Ever since they have been accused of using municipal offices in planning, housing and taxation to favour their own community.

In 1996 the ultra-orthodox became even more powerful by giving crucial support to Benjamin Netanyahu in the election for prime minister. Their alliance with the nationalist right makes their grip difficult to break. With chances of reconciliation so small Professor Hasson says that one scenario might be for Jerusalem to "be divided into a Haredi district in the north and a secular area in the south".

Dixons BRITAIN'S BIGGEST

UP TO 18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* ON ALL CAMCORDERS

SAVE UP TO £100 ON BRITAIN'S BIGGEST RANGE OF CAMCORDERS

HITACHI

VME110/120 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 12x POWER ZOOM

- 15x instant zoom
- AA dry battery compatibility
- Date/time insert
- Auto/manual focus

Was £499.99

EXCLUSIVE

Dixons Deal

£399.99

SAVE £100 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

Panasonic

NV4-S VHS-C CAMCORDER WITH 10x POWER ZOOM

- 3 programme auto-exposure modes
- Full range auto-focus
- Auto/manual focus
- Auto data record

Was £499.99

EXCLUSIVE

Dixons Deal

£449.99

SAVE £50 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

JVC

GRAX 200 VHS-C CAMCORDER WITH 12x POWER ZOOM

- 5 programme auto-exposure
- High speed shutter
- Auto-focus

Was £499.99

EXCLUSIVE

Dixons Deal

£449.99

SAVE £50 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SONY

TR500 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 10x POWER ZOOM

- 3 auto-exposure modes
- Full range auto-focus
- Auto/manual focus
- Auto data record

Was £599.99

EXCLUSIVE

Dixons Deal

£549.99

SAVE £50 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SAVOYO

VME650 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 12x POWER ZOOM

- 14:1 stereo sound
- Colour viewfinder
- AA dry battery compatibility
- Remote control

Was £599.99

EXCLUSIVE

Dixons Deal

£549.99

SAVE £50 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

Panasonic

NVR33 VHS-C CAMCORDER WITH 10x POWER ZOOM

- Hi-fi stereo sound
- Image stabilisation
- 3 programme auto-exposure modes
- 1 lux low light capacity

Was £699.99

EXCLUSIVE

Dixons Deal

£599.99

SAVE £100 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

SAVOYO

VME480 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 12x POWER ZOOM

- 14:1 stereo sound
- AA dry battery compatibility
- Remote control

Was £599.99

EXCLUSIVE

Dixons Deal

£499.99

SAVE £100 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

JVC

GRAX 480 VHS-C CAMCORDER WITH 12x POWER ZOOM

- Programme auto-exposure modes with special effects
- Character generator
- Auto video light
- Remote control

Was £599.99

EXCLUSIVE

Dixons Deal

£599.99

SAVE £50 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

Canon

UC300 8mm CAMCORDER WITH 20x POWER ZOOM

- 14:1 stereo sound
- Image stabilisation
- 6 auto exposure modes
- Date/time insert
- Remote control

Was £699.99

EXCLUSIVE

Dixons Deal

£649.99

SAVE £100 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

JVC

GRIF 700 VHS-C CAMCORDER WITH 12x POWER ZOOM

- 14:1 stereo sound
- 6 auto exposure modes
- Colour viewfinder
- Title generator

Was £699.99

EXCLUSIVE

Dixons Deal

£649.99

SAVE £50 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

سكاي سب الاصل

Appeal court rejects Chinese dissident's plea

Teresa Poole
Peking

A Chinese appeal court yesterday took 10 minutes to uphold the 11-year jail sentence for subversion passed last month on Wang Dan, the 27-year-old pro-democracy activist. After the hearing, Mr Wang's mother, Wang Lingyun, said: "It was all prepared in advance. I am very angry. It was very unfair."

Mrs Wang said that after the verdict, she sat outside the court for an hour "in protest". No-one would have seen her, as public security officials cleared the area and kept foreign journalists away.

Appeals rarely succeed in China, and never in cases involving political dissent, so the outcome was no surprise. Mr Wang was not allowed to speak at the hearing, and the judge at the Peking Higher Level People's Court simply read a short, prepared statement. The original trial lasted three hours, in contrast with the 17-month detention period Mr Wang endured before he was formally charged, a period that will not be included in his jail term.

Mr Wang has already served a three-and-a-half-year sentence for his role as a student leader in the 1989 pro-democracy movement. The recent accusation of subversion rested on evidence that he published articles critical of the government in the foreign media, accepted money from foreign dissident organisations, and had contact with other Chinese dissidents. Mr Wang pleaded not guilty.



Ideological clash: Pro-democracy activists demonstrating outside the Conventional Centre, in Hong Kong, yesterday against the visit of Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, whom they believe will introduce of illegal changes to Hong Kong's political system. Photograph: AP

HK gets first taste of rule by Peking

Stephen Vines
Hong Kong

China yesterday organised a set-piece event which gave the people of Hong Kong a good idea of what it will feel like next year when Peking resumes sovereignty over the colony.

Outside it looked and felt like Hong Kong. Demonstrators chanted democracy slogans while limousines drew into the forecourt of an adjacent hotel, disgorging expensively dressed patrons. Inside the ultra-modern Convention Centre, Chinese officials managed perfectly to reproduce the appearance and stuffy atmosphere of Peking's Great Hall of the People.

Under a red backdrop, with the five-star emblem of the People's Republic at its centre, the 400 members of the committee, supposedly "electing" Hong Kong's first post-colonial head of government, or Chief Executive, sat silently while they were lectured by Qian Qichen, China's Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, who has primary responsibility for Hong Kong in the Chinese hierarchy.

They were told they had a solemn duty to perform and that, unlike the colonialists, China was giving Hong Kong people a real opportunity to elect their leader. Listening were a group of tycoons who could, if they desired, have liquidated China's national debt and still have more than enough left over to add to their collections of Rolls-Royces.

They form the most influential contingent in the Selection Committee, which yesterday completed the first stage of the "election". Not surprisingly, they were being called on to choose one of their number as the first Chief Executive. Any doubt that China's preferred candidate will be chosen at the second stage, on 11 December, was dispelled when the shipping tycoon Tung Chee-hwa was nominated by 206 of the committee's members.

He is trailing the former chief justice, Sir Ti Liang Yang, in the

polls but the public is not being allowed to vote and so Sir Ti Liang secured only 82 nominations from the electors who count. As one of the other trailing candidates, the businessman Peter Woo, said, public opinion is "only a piece of data" and matters little in this race.

Mr Qian was sensitive to criticism that it was something of a farce. "People must not think the Chief Executive has been preordained," he said. Mr Tung was equally keen to preserve the illusion of a real contest. "I don't think it's a foregone conclusion," he said. The illusion of a contest is important to sustain Mr Qian's claim that the process of setting up the Selection Committee is the real beginning of democracy in Hong Kong and not the end. Another interpretation of the committee's work came earlier in the week from a legislator, Leung Yiu-chung, who described it as "foul grass growing out of a foul ditch". He was expelled from the Legislative Council, worsening the relationship between pro-Peking and pro-democracy forces. Another legislator, Yung Sum, when asked why he had joined a vigil to protest against the Selection Committee, said: "If all of us disappear, people will think that people in Hong Kong are very complacent. We need to make our voice known."

The protesters tried to present a letter to Mr Qian, but only managed to pass it to a minor official. The Vice-Premier has never before paid a formal visit to Hong Kong. Yesterday he was whisked across the border in the morning and left as soon as he could in the afternoon so as not to coincide with the Governor, Chris Patten, who was returning from Europe.

Meanwhile, in the hall where the "election" was taking place, there was no hint of any symbol other than that of the People's Republic. Reporters were subject to the strict vetting, which is typical of how business is conducted in Peking. It did not seem that 1 July was 228 days away.

CAMCORDER RETAILER

FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM*
WHEN YOU SPEND £299 OR MORE AT DIXONS

LCD CAMCORDERS - SAVE UP TO £100

See the action on-screen as it happens or use for instant playback.



TRV11
8mm CAMCORDER WITH
12x POWER ZOOM
● 25" LCD screen.
● 4 auto-exposure modes.
● Title recording facility.
● Remote control.
● 0.8 lux low light capability.
Was £749.99.

Dixons Deal
£699.99



VLE24
8mm CAMCORDER WITH
24x POWER ZOOM
● 2" LCD screen and speaker.
● 1.1 lux low light capability
for viewing in poor light.
Price includes carrying
Chargestack £299.99.

£549.99

TRV21
8mm CAMCORDER WITH
24x POWER ZOOM
● 25" LCD screen and speaker.
● Electronic steady shot.
● Trip facility.
● 4 auto-exposure modes.
● Remote control.
Was £799.99.

Dixons Deal
£799.99



TRV30
8mm CAMCORDER WITH
12x POWER ZOOM
● Built-in 3" LCD screen
and speaker.
● 4 auto-exposure
modes.
● 0.8 lux low
light capability.
Was £749.99.

Dixons Deal
£649.99

Hi-8 CAMCORDERS - SAVE UP TO £100

Hi-8 gives increased definition and better resolution for professional images and superior sound quality.

SONY

TR760
Hi-8 CAMCORDER WITH
30x DIGITAL ZOOM
● Hi-fi stereo sound.
● AA dry battery compatibility.
● 4 auto-exposure modes.
● Remote control.
Was £799.99.

£699.99



SAMSUNG

VP145
Hi-8 CAMCORDER WITH
12x POWER ZOOM
● Hi-fi stereo sound.
● 5 auto-exposure
modes.
● Remote control.
Includes tripod.
Was £699.99.

£629.99

SONY

TR810
Hi-8 CAMCORDER WITH
30x DIGITAL ZOOM
● Hi-fi stereo sound.
● Electronic steady shot.
● 5 auto-exposure modes.
● Duettime insert.
● Remote control.
Was £999.99.

£799.99



UC9
Hi-8 CAMCORDER WITH
40x DIGITAL ZOOM
● Hi-fi stereo sound.
● Image stabilisation.
● Character generator.
● 5 auto-exposure modes.

Dixons Deal
£799.99

*When you spend £299 or more in a single visit to Dixons and take out a new subscription to any Sky programming package for a year, you will receive a Matsui RD6000 satellite receiver and appropriate dish for your area. This offer is by redemption only. You will not be charged for installation. A charge may be made if additional bracketing and cabling is required. A one-off £12 connection fee is due with your first subscription. You should be 18 or over and meet status requirements, one offer per household. Not valid with any other offer. Offer ends Saturday 23rd November 1996.

Account Interest Free if repaid in full before the 18th monthly payment. Example: Cash price £499. 0% deposit of £199. 0% INTEREST. Pay 8 monthly payments of £7.50 and the balance of £176.50 before the 18th monthly payment. (Total payable £488 APR 0%) OR 29.5% APR. 48 monthly payments of £16.60. (Total payable £796.80 APR 29.5%) Dixons Advantage Account, credit card customers only. Available on request from then FOMM. Minimum Australia Home Improvement Parts P27770. Applicant must be 18 or over, 21 or over in New Zealand.

Dixons
THERE'S A GREAT DEAL GOING ON THIS CHRISTMAS

Clinton agrees to Bosnia follow-up

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

President Clinton has given his formal blessing for a follow-up Nato peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, announcing yesterday that some 8,500 US troops will take part in a new operation which will last at least until mid-1998 - and possibly longer still.

There are some 14,000 American servicemen in Bosnia, part of the 110,000 troops whose one-year assignment ends next month. However Mr Clinton has now signed on to plans for a smaller Nato follow-up force of between 25,000 and 30,000 men, to allow more time for political wounds to heal, and economic reconstruction to proceed.

Warning that Bosnia's "harvest of hatred has not yet disappeared", the President said the US replacement force would comprise 8,500 men at first, but that number would be reviewed monthly. The aim was to bring half the force home by the end of 1997, and complete the mission entirely by June 1998. His language, however, did not totally close the door on a further extension, should circumstances require it.

Republicans accused the President of breaking his pledge of December 1995 that all American troops would be withdrawn within 12 months, and deliberately concealing his intentions during the election campaign - even though it had long been obvious a follow-up Nato force would have to stay in the country. The credibility of the administration's entire Bosnia policy had now been "dramatically weakened", said the Republican Congressman Floyd Spence, chairman of the House National Security Committee.

In fact, from a purely military point of view, 110,000 has been a remarkable success, with not a single American among the 19,000 who served in Bosnia killed by hostile action.

Croatian leader in cancer scare

Marcus Tanner

Fears of a succession crisis in Croatia were mounting last night after a report that Croatia's authoritarian President, Franjo Tudjman, had been admitted to a Washington hospital suffering from cancer.

The announcement, on CNN, citing US government sources, will have caught most Croats by surprise; state-controlled Croatian television and radio were declaring only that the President was on holiday.

Mr Tudjman may have entered the Walter Reed hospital, where his defence minister and close ally, Gojko Susak, was recently treated, also for cancer. Although the state of Mr Tudjman's health is a closely guarded secret, rumours have been spreading, following public appearances in which the normally sprightly 74-year-old has looked unusually drawn.

Mr Tudjman illness, if confirmed, threatens to plunge the newly independent country into a leadership crisis, with worrying implications for the Dayton peace process in neighbouring Bosnia. Since winning the former Yugoslav republic's first multi party election in 1990, Tudjman has drawn power tightly into his own hands, a process consolidated by his stunning military victory in 1994 over the Belgrade-backed Serb rebels of the Krajina region.

There is no obvious successor and what worries Croats is the prospect of a potentially violent power struggle between moderates in Mr Tudjman's HDZ party under Vlatko Pavletic, the speaker of parliament, and ultra-nationalists under Vladimir Seks.

One of Seks' key allies, Ivan Milas, fuelled this concern when he made a veiled threat during last year's parliamentary election campaign to call on the army and police if the HDZ were to lose the vote.

international

Disease fears set the feathers flying

Katherine Butler
Hengelo, The Netherlands

"Are you looking for a most docile prolific breeder, densely feathered for skin quality?" The Belgian Ostrich Breeders' Association's poster proclaimed the merits of its birds. "Think 20 years ahead... the key to your success".

The South African ostrichmen were not thinking 20 years ahead. They were thinking about Europe's ban on their exports, prompted by an outbreak of Congo fever, a fatal disease carried by ostriches, which, if passed to humans, causes massive internal bleeding and the collapse of the body's organs.

Huddled around the exhibition centre, surrounded by displays of ostrich leather handbags, key rings, and cowboy boots they muttered darkly about the French and Belgian

ostrich farmers who seemed just a little too quick to "point the finger". All around them, enthusiastic breeders brought together for the European Ostrich Association's World Congress, chatted about the nutritional requirements of 10-day-old chicks or sat in front of earnest videos on the most efficient way to butcher an ostrich.

In a small pen, a few yards away, partly concealed behind some incongruous red velvet curtains, a dozen or so scrawny birds darted around, but nobody took much notice. And all the time the ghost of the feast hovered, casting its ominous shadow. Congo-Crimean fever, the tropical virus which has prompted the ban on South Africa, was not mentioned in any of the brochures or speeches at the two day congress, and the organisers put on a brave face.

But publicity surrounding

the disease which has claimed the life of an abattoir worker and left 16 others seriously ill could not have come at a more inopportune time.

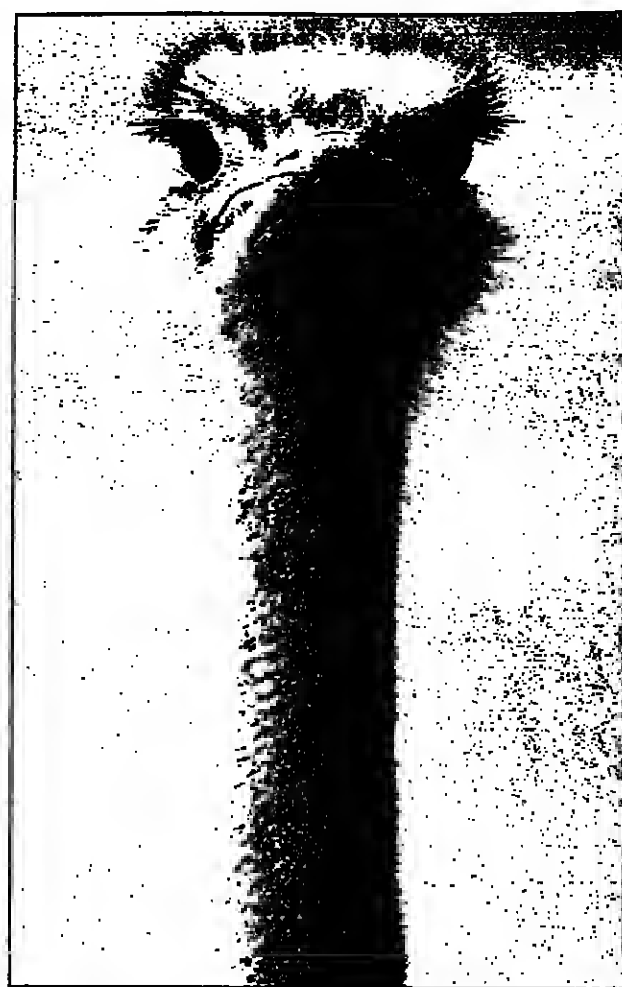
Scoop Pienaar, one of the big names in South Africa's ostrich business was overheard complaining to one of organisers. "I don't want to be negative but you could kill the entire industry," he said. They were not doing enough, he felt, to stamp out loose talk about a disease which posed less of a threat than influenza. Mr Pienaar hinted at a major rift in the ostrich producers camp, and maybe even blood on the carpet, later in the day. If the Europeans were trying to keep out South African product to protect their industry, then it could backfire on them. "What's good for the goose is good for the gander," he warned.

Barney Van Niekerk from Johannesburg agreed. "The

French are notorious. They will use any trick to protect their market. But in scoring a short-term gain, they will harm the industry as a whole. Look at Mad Cow Disease in Britain; it has damaged beef farmers everywhere".

With consumer confidence in beef and other red meat at its lowest ebb ever, the ostrich industry, still in its infancy, has set its sights on the menus and dinner tables of Europe. Assuming fears about Congo fever can be contained, ostriches could still emerge as the cash crop of the Nineties. At the moment, only about 10 tonnes of ostrich meat is produced in Europe each year, while around 800 tonnes is imported from South Africa.

Crisis-stricken British beef farmers thinking about diversification, ought perhaps to know that ostriches are happy to live in any climate, even frost or snow.



significant shorts

French rap singers jailed for abuse

Two singers in a French rap band have been given three-month jail terms and been banned from performing for six months for using lyrics attacking the police. Bruno Lopez, 30, and Didier Morville, 29, belong to the group NTM. *Reuter - Toulon*

Crash aircraft had swerved

The search for the remaining 51 of the 349 people killed in the world's worst mid-air collision continued among growing indications that one of the aircraft tried to avoid Tuesday's crash between the Saudi Boeing and a Kazakh freighter near New Delhi. *Reuter - Charkhi Dadri*

Bridegroom to be flogged

Amnesty International expressed concern that a Christian man is to be flogged in the United Arab Emirates and jailed for a year for marrying a Moslem woman. *Reuter - London*

Parents call for minister to resign

The parents of two of the children killed in the paedophile murder case have called for the Interior Minister to resign and threatened a new mass rally to avoid stalling in the investigation which led to the arrest of rapist Marc Dutroux, rescue of two girls and discovery of four bodies. *Reuter - Brussels*

Bosnia gives way to US

Bosnia's President bowed to United States pressure and agreed to fire two defence officials, including one with ties to Iran, clearing the way for a massive delivery of US arms. *Reuter - Sarajevo*

Deal protects caviar source

Five Caspian Sea countries - Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan - agreed to stop aggressive fishing for sturgeon which has depleted resources of the world's main caviar harvest. *AP - Moscow*

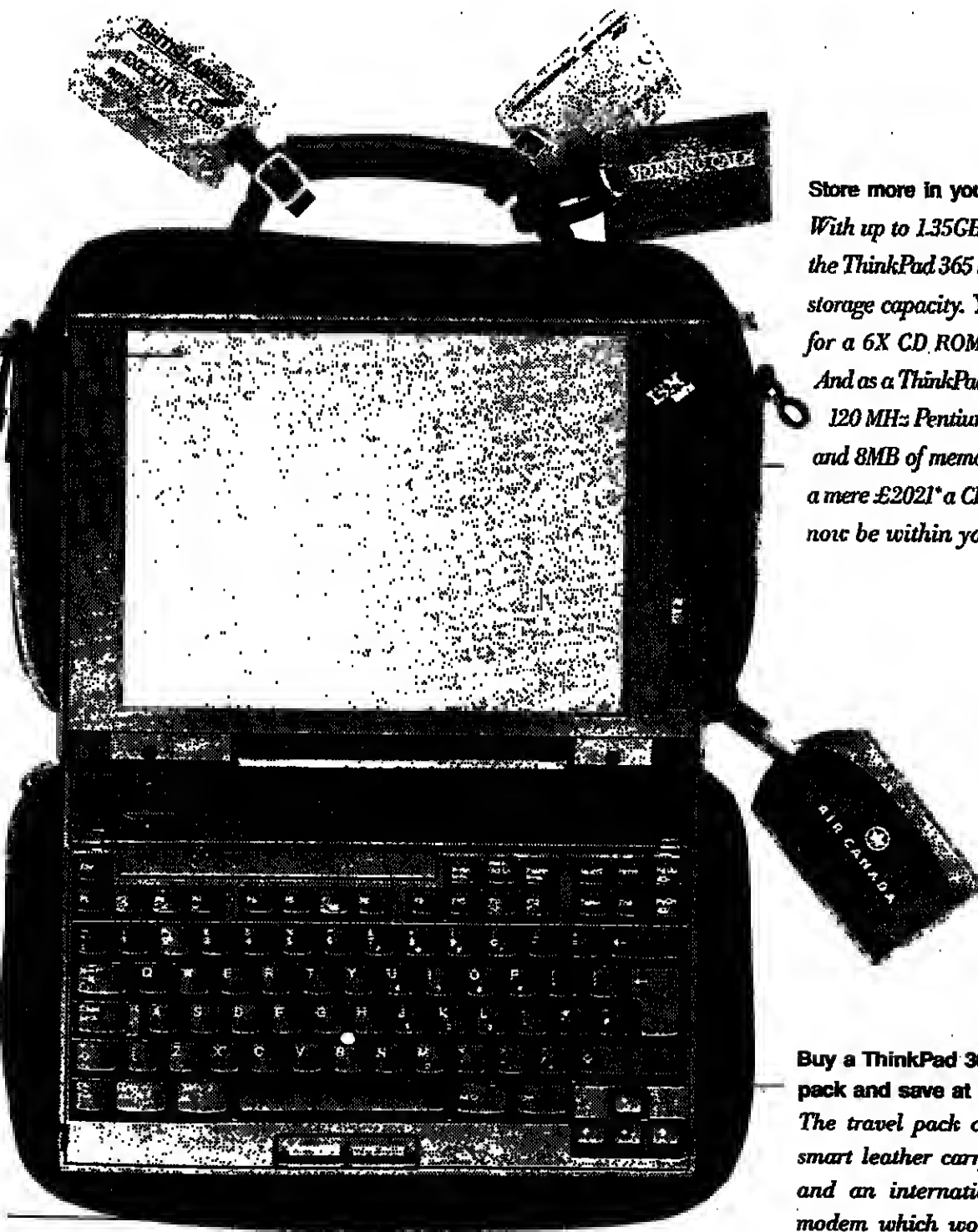
The frequent flyer's favourite portable.
Now with a £2021* Ex.VAT. price tag.

Broaden your vision.

With screens measuring up to 11.3 inches, the ThinkPad 365 provides a work environment, that won't strain your eyes. Or your budget.



Taking the lug out of luggage. With our lightest model weighing as little as 2.67kg, the ThinkPad 365 is far lighter than the average portable. But we've cut more than the weight and size - the ThinkPad 365 now costs as little as £2021*.



Store more in your briefcase.

With up to 1.35GB hard drive, the ThinkPad 365 has massive storage capacity. You can opt for a 6X CD ROM drive, too. And as a ThinkPad 365 with a 120 MHz Pentium processor and 8MB of memory starts at a mere £2021* a CD ROM may not be within your budget.

Buy a ThinkPad 365 travel pack and save at least £90*. The travel pack contains a smart leather carrying case and an international fax-modem which works in 16 countries. Everything a road warrior needs to get on the road, from only £2274* in total.

To find out more, please return the coupon below or call Nicky Ball on 0990 72 72 72.

IBM

Solutions for a small planet

Please return this coupon to: Nicky Ball, Freepost PT352, IBM United Kingdom Limited, PO Box 41, Portsmouth, Hants, PO6 3BR.
YES, I would like more information on... ☐ The special promotional offer on selected ThinkPad 365X or XD. ☐ The ThinkPad 365. ☐ The IBM ThinkPad range.

First Name/Surname _____ Position (optional) _____ Company (optional) _____
Address _____ Tel: _____

*Recommended retail price including VAT for specific ThinkPad 365 V/X/D models. Price including VAT is £2351.67. *Limited offer available on selected ThinkPad 365 models X and XD with at least £90 saving compared to the recommended retail price of the combined modem and carry case offer products. Price including VAT is £2671.95. Offer valid until shipment date of 30/11/96 or until supplies last. Photos may show design models. Pentium is a trademark of Intel Corp.
© IBM Corporation Ltd 1996.



Commercial Union
home insurance
offers twin
benefits

Lower
premiums
Higher
standards of
service

0800 38 0800

Call us for your free quote
8am-8pm Monday-Friday or 9am-5pm Saturday

COMMERCIAL UNION

We won't make a drama
out of a crisis

Your call may be recorded for training purposes.

طريقنا من الامم

150 من المال

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 1996

THE INDEPENDENT

FOUNDED 1986

ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000/0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435/0171-345 2435

Everything's familiar. Everything has changed

Look around and what do we see? We see the 1970s, that's what. Black Forest gateau, prawn cocktails and Chicken Kiev are alleged to be "in" again - guilty looks all round among those of us who'd never noticed they were out. Silly shoes, flares, Jesus Christ Superstar and even the colour brown are back in fashion (apparently brown is the new black, whatever that means). Furniture shops are stuffed with plastic chairs with holes in.

Styles wash around us endlessly. A more interesting and difficult question is whether Seventies economics is coming back too. After the devaluation of the flower-power days, wage settlements rose, unemployment fell, inflation began to pick up. But Conservative government shrugged. Its chancellor cut taxes and avoided raising interest rates, bequeathing his name - Barber - to the boom he fuelled.

Two decades on, the story sounds a little familiar. With Oasis rather than the Beatles ringing in our ears, the jobless queues are now falling fast and inflation is nudging upwards - all in the aftermath of the Black Wednesday devaluation, rather than the Wilson one.

It isn't difficult to imagine the current Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, as a political throwback to the Toryism of the Seventies - all kipper ties, welfarism and pro-Europeanism. Certainly plenty of Tories hope that, with the election only months away, he will be a mini-Barber, cutting taxes and repelling pleas from the Bank of Eng-

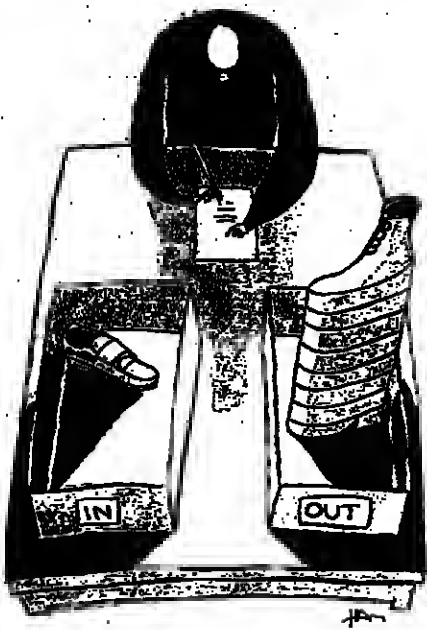
land for an interest-rate hike. Even New Labour, waiting in the opposition wings, could be included in this game of retro-politics. Labour, we will be told, is ready to return to beer and sandwiches with the unions - or croissants and claret, perhaps, since this new corporatism is to be accomplished via European federal initiatives.

It is a neat theory. There is something in the human mind that thrives on nostalgia. But it is, we hope and believe, absolute nonsense. There will be no return to Seventies economics and it would be a disaster if there were.

The climate in which chancellors make their tax and interest-rate decisions has changed dramatically in the past 20 years. Voters are better informed about politicians' tricks, and pundits have more access to the secrets of the policy-making process. Much has changed in the economy that should have changed our attitudes as well.

Indeed, the really remarkable thing is that it would probably be politically shrewd of Clarke to deliver only modest tax cuts, or none at all. After being burned in 1992, voters are highly sceptical about pre-election cuts. The better-informed are well aware of Britain's larger public sector borrowing constraints. For the Tories, restoring their tattered reputation for prudence matters far more than a day of good headlines in the cheaper papers.

Nor, despite Conservative propaganda, is new Labour under Blair like old Labour under Wil-



son and Callaghan. It has learnt the lessons of 1992 too. Voters are so sensitive to the idea that every new policy must be paid for (ultimately by taxpayers) and so willing to believe Labour profligate by instinct, that the party is taking prudence to extremes. The chances of Tony Blair blowing all in a post-election spending spree or knocking under to union pressure, all seem slim. Because voters are wiser, and because financial markets are quicker to punish mistakes, any government must act within strict fiscal limits.

Among many of us, attitudes towards inflation have changed. It is now abundantly clear that you can't exchange unemployment for inflation in the long run. Whatever the short-term rush, inflation hurts and Gordon Brown now sounds as hawkish about its corrupting influence as the Chancellor himself. As strikingly, both politicians are almost as ferocious in their rhetoric as the Bank's inflation-obsessive governor, Eddie George. Thus, common sense suggests, Seventies nostalgia can remain safely within our wardrobes, our CD collections and our fridges. Too much in the economy and in the political climate have changed for us to slip back.

There are even yet, however, some who will regret that. Cooing to themselves that they have suffered enough in the last few years, many people are sorely tempted by the prospect of a little boom. Homeowners and borrowers really wouldn't mind a bit more inflation to raise the

value of their assets and wither away their debts. Employees, fed up of pay restraint and job insecurity, are eyeing the possibility of good times with glee.

Some of the experts are as bad. A majority of city economists and industrialists would be happy for interest rates to remain at their current level, despite the rising risk of inflation. We seem to be getting tired of all this prudence and abstinence. It has happened before: the damaging effects of inflation in the Seventies didn't stop Nigel Lawson creating another boom at the end of the Eighties. At the time so many of us told ourselves we deserved it, for we had participated in an economic "miracle". The economy had changed and inflation had been conquered. Yet we roller-coasted through an old-fashioned boom and bust all the same.

So complacency is unwise. The surrounding economic world may have changed, bringing harsher if more invigorating times; but people don't change so quickly. So long as there are democratic politics, and politicians to offer easier times, there will be inflation. But this time, on balance, we are optimistic that the lessons of the late Eighties, as well as the Seventies, will resound through the next election. Fashion cycles in modern food, clothes and furniture seem to be around 20 years. Business cycles are rather shorter. Whatever we eat, however we look, we can afford no nostalgia in our economics.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Break the taboo on teaching parents how to do better

Sir: Jack O'Sullivan should have read our discussion document *Parenting* before writing about Labour's approach to the subject ("Back to school for mum and dad", 14 November). We made many of the points he accused us of neglecting.

There is a taboo on public discussion of parenting which needs to be broken. We want to encourage a wider debate. There is more advice about car and pet care than about bringing up children. We are bombarded with information about sexual relationships, but scant attention is given to the product of those relationships - children.

We do not pretend to have all the answers, nor have we clambered into the pulpit to preach. But parenting is both a tough and an important job, which when done badly has serious consequences for everyone - not least the child.

We need to be clearer about the responsibilities that parenting brings; to give a higher priority to information, local help and support for parents; to find a better balance between parenting and work; to improve nursery education and early-years child care; to encourage ideas to help children in state care; and to tackle parenting problems, particularly where children are involved in offending behaviour.

Our document will hopefully contribute to wider-ranging and serious debate about what is, after all, the most important task any of us ever undertakes.

JACK STRAW MP
(Blackburn, Lab)
Shadow Home Secretary
House of Commons

Sir: There is no shortage of parent support initiatives. They have been

spearheaded by the voluntary sector for at least 15 years. Excellent programmes are available for supporting parents throughout the child-rearing cycle and for those parents facing specific challenges with their children, such as poor behaviour or criminal propensities.

Yet there is no priority given to parent support work and excellent voluntary organisations struggle to keep afloat. Preventative work with families is not seriously covered by the resources within the criminal justice system nor any other distinct budget.

Under the chairmanship of Jean Corston MP, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Parenting has addressed the lack of co-ordination between government policies which daily, badly affect the lives of parents and children.

If only commitment to implement policies followed the rhetoric,

programmes helping parents could be running on a nationwide basis very soon. Two things are needed immediately: a central point from which all the available programmes can be disseminated and frankly marketed; and a national training base from which professionals can begin the task of becoming preventionists rather than interventionists.

It is vital that the health service and local authorities invest in professional adaptation programmes for their staffs. Then, health visitors and social workers will be seen as parent and family supporters and not child-abductors. Without this, scarce resources are wasted as parents avoid contact with the very services that can make a difference.

CAROLYN DOUGLAS
Executive Director, National Parenting Development Centre
London W11

Bible calls gays to repentance

Sir: Paul Valley ("Thank God for the gays", 11 November) tries to dismiss the biblical teaching against homosexuality by *reductio ad absurdum*.

Valley lumps together Old Testament condemnation of homosexual acts with the bans on unclean food and mixed-fabric garments. However, food-bans and so on have been swept away by the coming of Messiah and the inauguration of the kingdom of God. The moral realities of biblical sexuality however remain. They are not rooted in the symbolism of the old covenant but in the fact that God created man and woman in his image for companionship, sexual intimacy and procreation within the confines of marriage.

The fact that Jesus nowhere condemns homosexual acts must be put in the context of a Christ who everywhere assumed the authority of the Old Testament and who himself confined sexual expression to male-female marriage (Matthew 19:1-6).

As for the apostle Paul, his forthright condemnations of homosexual acts (Romans 1:1-3; Corinthians 6:9-10), cannot be dismissed as culture-bound. Paul was not, as Valley suggests, anti-gay *per se*. In Ephesians 5, Paul sanctifies the one-flesh relationship of marriage by making it a picture for the relationship between Christ and the Church.

The Bible always teaches that sex is for male-female married couples; to suggest otherwise you have to resort to special pleading or simply to deconstruct the Bible to suit yourself.

The message for "lesbian and gay Christians" is that God does love all human beings despite their fallenness and wants to save and heal us. We must all repent of our sins and turn to God in Christ for help.

The Rev GUY A DAVIES
Stalbridge
Dorset

Virgin's fight over transatlantic slots

Sir: Richard Quest says that none of the other carriers (I presume including Virgin) has devoted the same resources to London as BA-American with their 60 per cent combined market share and 80 per cent control of peak-time transatlantic slots ("Merger will not stifle competition", 12 November). What he forgets to mention is that the only reason we haven't is because we are not allowed to! Virgin would love to fly six times a day to New York and have been applying for more slots for years and years.

If the two governments allow the effective merger of these globally dominant carriers there will be even less competition across the Atlantic and Mr Quest can kiss goodbye to what service he gets today. Slots are the key and these two monopolists still insist they are not on the table.

RICHARD BRANSON
Chairman
Virgin Group of Companies
London W8

A soldier at 15

Sir: Further to M Grugeon's letter (13 November) about under-age fighter pilots, my elder brother enlisted in the King's Royal Rifle Corps and was in uniform in 1941 the day after his 15th birthday. In action in North Africa and on through Italy, he was injured near Florence, which resulted in his being invalided out some time after his 18th birthday. There were a great many like him.

T G WHIPPEY
Market Drayton, Shropshire

LETTER from THE EDITOR

Nietzsche's austere, tinged with environmentalism, is arriving in the newspaper market. After launching *The Eye*, we have had some letters urging us to offer a smaller paper, not a bigger one. I have some sympathy: one of the penalties of being in the business is that I get almost all the Sunday papers delivered at home. Well, not *The News of the World* or *Sunday Sport*, of course, but the rest of them. Under the slow grey or yellowing paper, the bedroom, kitchen and hall slowly dissolve into a West London imitation of the Sao Paulo municipal rubbish tip - only instead of the seagulls' cry, there are small Marrs chirruping: "Daddy, why has that lady got no vest on?"

But for *The Independent*, the practical problem with giving way to the "less is more" philosophy, or down-shifting the paper, is that everybody has strong opinions about what is unnecessary - and they mostly conflict.

One reader would ditch chess, or John Lytle; others would give up the paper if they went. Some say "no football"; others go there first. A quick count tells me that I have so far been advised to get rid of most of our commentators, the sports pages, colour pictures, all the supplements, coverage of pop music, and food, politics, ("mostly propaganda") and "things about Africa." Which would leave, of course, very little indeed.

If people were really hostile to the size of papers, surely the mammoth, ungainly *Sunday Times* would be a commercial flop, and tiny *Tribune* would be hugely popular.

The truth is surely that a newspaper, when it works, is like a caricature family gathering: there are the excessively well informed uncles, angry daughters, hectoring spouses, aged wits, spritely gossips, black sheep, crooners, rascals, hearty story-tellers, drunks, puritans. As a reader you pass around, stopping here and there, avoiding this one and sharing a long sherry with that. You might sometimes wish there were fewer; but once you start dropping them, life suddenly seems a little emptier. At the same time, of course, one house can

only accommodate so many raised voices.

A sign of the times: at Southwark Cathedral this week there was a packed memorial service for the brilliant journalist Nico Coles, inventor of the Mars Bar index of global value, ex of *The Financial Times* and *The Economist*. It was a moving and uplifting occasion. Nico was described, accurately enough, like this: "Quintessentially English, he was at the same time thoroughly cosmopolitan and enthusiastically, though not uncritically, pro-European." True; but the apologetic cough of that "though not uncritically"

A newspaper is like a caricature family gathering. As a reader, you move around, avoiding one relative and sharing a sherry with another

grated. The spirit of Bill Cash was amongst us: Nico, a generous-souled debunker, would have smiled.

The hunt of the week is for the identity of "Cassandra". This famous political *non de game* has been revived by *Tribune* as its pseudonym for the Labour MP, a former front-bencher, who attacked Tony Blair in its latest issue, darkly warning of a palace coup against him next summer.

Over-heated stuff, in my opinion: readers of yesterday's paper were able to judge for themselves. But if *Tribune* say the writer is senior, perhaps that's so. Conceding this is generous on my part, since the previous edition of *Tribune* had a piece "outing" me as the author of another pseudonymous column, "Lynton Charles MP", in the *New Statesman*. This is not so. But I know the name of the hapless verbal assassin responsible. And for a small consideration, I may still be persuaded (David) not to reveal it.

Andrew Marr

Quote Unquote

I was said a few weeks ago to be on 24-hour suicide watch. I don't even know how to spell the word - The Duchess of York

The Lord Chancellor is not a shoot-from-the-hip, rent-a-quote politician on the make - *Tory MP* Jerry Hayes

We have seen a parliament composed largely of parliamentary pygmies accepting a slide towards being little more than a provincial assembly with subordinate powers to legislate over a shrinking portion of our national affairs - Lord Tebbit on the growing influence of Europe on Britain

Behind the facade of unity and discipline the reality is that Tony Blair's position as leader of the Labour Party is weaker than any leader in memory - an unnamed "senior Labour MP" in a column in the political weekly *Tribune*

Males have the ability to enjoy multiple orgasms, three of them, one after the other, and each lasting about one and a half hours - Dr Michael Majerus of Cambridge University, talking about ladybirds

My motto is: when in doubt buy shoes. All my shoes are my favourites the day I buy them. It's a bit like a man chasing blondes - TV presenter Marcelle d'Argy Smith

It's definitely best to go out on a high - *Mastermind* of 1995 Kevin Ashman on the decision to axe the show

Jostling for space on the towpath

Sir: Your article on the rival network of cycleways promoted by National Byway was prefaced by a reference to canal fever ("Cycle scheme rivals on path to conflict", 11 November). We are one of many canal societies concerned about the plans by Sustrans to promote their cycleways on canal towpaths.

We recognise that there is long-established use of canal towpaths for cycling and we hope that it will continue. What does concern us is any proposal to create formal cycleways along towpaths.

If devised as an alternative to cycling on general highways, cycleways would not be needed just in daylight hours. Lighting would be demanded. Similarly, regular users would expect a well-surfaced track with safety barriers. Sustrans' general proposals already envisage such treatment.

In built-up areas neither lighting nor hard surfacing need be a problem but guard-railing can be dangerous for people who need to disembark from boats. However, the bulk of our canals either run through open countryside or provide a rural finger through otherwise built-up areas. Thoughtless conversion to cycleways would destroy much of the very character that attracts people to them.

KEITH NOBLE
Canal Navigation Society
Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire

Sir: National Byway's plans for a 3,000-mile network of cycle trails will be welcomed by pedestrians everywhere, as they keep bicycles where they belong - on the roads. Sustrans, by contrast, has no qualms about seeking to take over footpaths for dual use by cyclists and walkers. Walkers lose the peace of mind and freedom of movement they enjoy on footpaths if they have to be ever alert for cyclists.

DEREK PURCELL
London SW15



Getting in the way? Cyclists on the towpath of the Grand Union Canal in Islington, North London

Sir: This country already has a wonderful network of cycleways; it is wide and smooth, goes everywhere and is called the national road network. The trouble is the Government and highway authorities have for many years designed and maintained this network with only one type of user in mind: the fast motor vehicle.

What paltry thought is given to cyclists largely takes the form of getting them off the road onto bumpy "trails". At least the National Byway scheme appears to recognise that cyclists are neither horses nor pedestrians on wheels. But, like the Sustrans national network, it appears aimed at providing a leisure, rather than transport, facility. How many new car journeys - bikes hooked on the back - will they generate?

The real need is for bicycles to have equal access to ordinary roads and streets, for ordinary everyday travel. Then the bicycle can fulfil its

potential for reducing pollution, increasing the fitness of the nation and increasing personal freedom and mobility.

CADLEY
Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

Sir: John Redwood ("How I would free drivers from gridlock", 12 November) is right in saying that traffic chaos is worse in term time - up to 20 per cent of morning rush-hour traffic is due to school trips. The single biggest deterrent to children walking and cycling to school is the danger from traffic.

Sustrans has launched the Safe Routes to Schools project, in partnership with several local authorities, which aims to encourage children to walk or cycle to school, by reducing the danger from traffic. New traffic-calming schemes, cycle paths, safe crossings and improved cycle security are planned.

The Government has made a

commitment to 20mph zones and traffic-calming in some areas. These measures can produce a 75 per cent fall in child pedestrian and cyclist accidents. Recent research demonstrates that parents will allow children to travel further on foot once traffic-calming is in place.

CELIA BEESON
Sustrans
Bristol

Sir: John Redwood thinks that increasing speed limits will improve traffic flow into built-up areas. It can be shown very simply and surprisingly (assuming 15h long cars and the interpolated thinking and braking distances found in the Highway Code) that the maximum traffic flow (number of cars per second) is obtained when all cars travel at 17mph. The answer is therefore to reduce speed limits, not increase them.

Dr STEPHEN N DANCER
Derby

City seeks out the 'missing' electors

Sir: Your report of 7 November on the level of under-registration of electors quoted an estimate by the Treasury that only 70 per cent of adults in Westminster are registered to vote, implying that the remaining 30 per cent are eligible to vote and therefore "missing".

The current register stands at 121,104 electors, which, if this implication was correct would mean that we would be missing 52,000 electors. This is simply not realistic, bearing in mind the high proportion of the resident population who are foreign nationals and the number of

residential properties that are in business use.

It may be that the 70 per cent figure is the percentage of properties that returned a form for the February 1995 register. The current register is based on information from 86 per cent of the properties canvassed. It is likely that the greater proportion of the missing 14 per cent will have no one eligible to vote so the "missing" electorate is much nearer 5,000 than 52,000.

COLIN WILSON
Electoral Registration Officer
Westminster City Hall
London SW1

Asteroids that could ruin our civilisation

Sir: I read Charles Arthur's article on the threat from asteroids and comets (13 November) with some interest. As the individual who published the initial report in June I would like to correct one detail: the report was not an "internal civil service report"; it was produced by me, as a private individual.

I do quote David Hughes, who appears to question the whole concept of planetary defence. Indeed, for the objects that he describes - the 15-20km "dinosaurs killers" - he is quite right. However, this is not the problem with which the meeting on the 12 November was concerned.

The major threat to our civilisation is posed by asteroids in the 1km size range. At this size an asteroid or

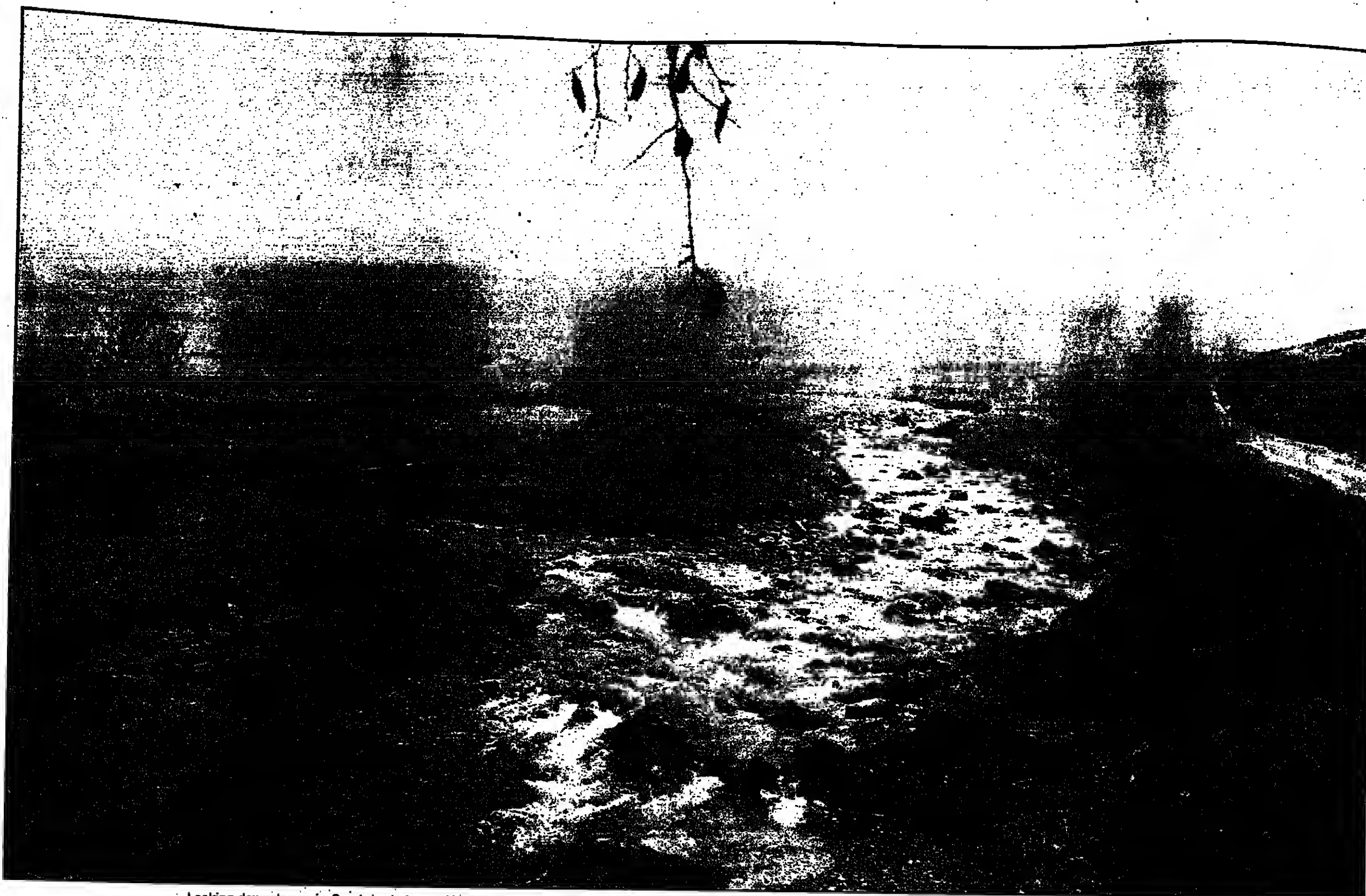
Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax 0171-293 2056; e-mail letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.



ESTATE CARS ARE
IT APPEARS OUR DESIGNERS H

So M
to ma
mothe
father
mann
that a
that I
to go f
best w
may be
that th
of the p
threate
it; that
all-in w
perhap
and by
cocktai

مركز من الاعمال



Looking downstream in Cumbria, between Hard Knott and Wrynose Pass. This picture was taken by John Voos on a Leica M6, 28mm lens, Kodak PJA 100 ASA film



the long weekend

THE INDEPENDENT • SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 1996

So Michael Jackson is to marry his nurse, mother-to-be of his child, fathered in the normal manner — now we know that anything is possible: that Lebanon is the place to go for skiing; that the best way to spend today may be planting garlic; that the movements of the planet Pluto will threaten life as we know it; that there's a book about all-in wrestling you perhaps ought to read. Oh, and by the way, prawn cocktail is back in fashion.

interview



John Walsh meets Donald Sinden

The classic thespian talks about *Spitting Image*, his ballet ambitions — and the death of his son

page 3

Kerber's week 2
Heavenly + Earthly ... 2

arts & books



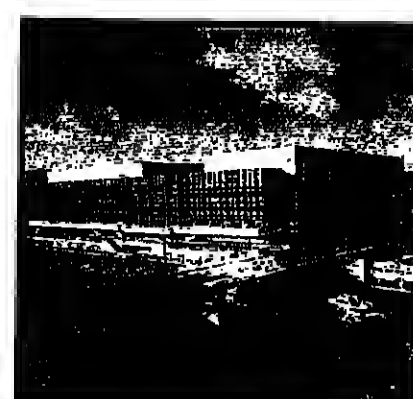
Magician of modern art

Reviled as a coward and woman-hater, Picasso emerges from two new biographies renewed and awesome. By Andrew Marr

page 6

Arts 4
Book reviews 6-8

travel



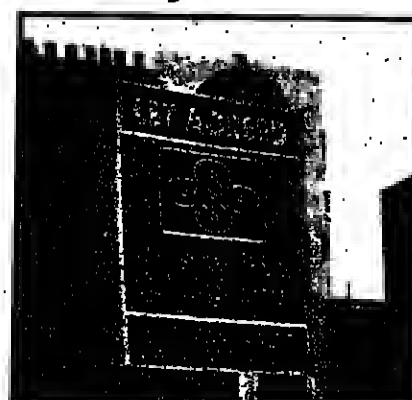
The new spirit of Berlin

Simon Calder visits the former East German capital seven years after the wall came down

page 9

Skiing 15
Gardening 16
Country walk 17

money



Is property still a good investment?

The buoyant rentals market has created a new breed of investor — the landlord

page 18

Property 18-19
Shopping 26-28
Crossword 29

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

THE SUNDAY REVIEW



DUCHESS IN DESPAIR
'Bryan tore up my diary and threw it around the room. HE HIT ME. I had bruises down my arms.' Fergie pours her heart out

real life



BOYS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN
(and not get married)
The new male code that is sweeping America

PATIENT, HEAL THYSELF
A guide to DIY medicine

SPORT



POOR LITTLE RICH GIRL
She's rich, very rich, but Laura Davies knows she would be even richer if she were a male golfer

HERO'S RETURN
Back with Wales, our columnist, Jonathan Davies, gives his verdict on the European Cup rugby action

BUSINESS



???

INTERFACE WITH NY
Win two Virgin Atlantic tickets in the Great Gobbledegook Chase by sending in appalling examples of financial jargon and

WHO IS THE NEWEST FAT CAT?
Find out tomorrow



Whatever happened to Rubik's Cube?

The moment: The British are anally retentive obsessives: that's why they are so easily hooked by crazes. So when Ernő Rubik invented a cube with 43,252,003,274,489,856,000 possible combinations and only one solution, the public was eager to buy this deceptively simple, brightly coloured, child's toy.

Background: Not content with exporting goulash and Gypsies, Hungary was also responsible for Rubik's cube. In the late Seventies a German mathematician told the veteran puzzle manufacturer, Pentangle, about a new puzzle designed by Dr Rubik, a teacher in the University in Budapest. When the lecturer found that none of his students was able to create a 3D design that could rotate in any direction, he did it himself and patented the idea. Pentangle had discovered, in a crude form, the prototype from which a puzzle would emerge which would occupy a special place in the British psyche for many years. The Germans at first snubbed the creation; so too did the British puzzle-buying public. But then the leader of fashion, Noel Edmonds, spoke, and the masses obeyed. For three weeks running the cube featured on his *Multi-Coloured Swap-shop* on Saturday mornings, and sales soared.

The effect: The puzzle peaked in popularity in the early Eighties. 15 million were sold, and it was estimated that three out of four households had a Rubik Cube buried in the sock drawer. In spite of an initial lack of interest the world over (including Hungary) the Rubik cube suddenly became hugely successful in everywhere.

Only a very small number of people managed to solve the puzzle of their own volition; some boasted their logical prowess in public and then sneaked away to look up the solution in one of the many books; others cheated by breaking the cube up and reassembling it.

Moments of subsequence: Though immensely successful, once solved a Rubik cube did not have many other uses, and in 1983 the market for the multicoloured mind game suddenly disappeared. There was however a vast market for spin-off products. The cube bred many-sided variants: a company in Hong Kong looked at every mathematical shape and did a Rubik-type dissection of them. Dr Rubik sold his name, and it was handed across many other Hungarian logic puzzles, such as the Rubik clock, snake and board game.

Mathematicians strove to find ways to solve the puzzle in fewer and fewer moves, while others in anoraks saw the cube as a challenge of manual dexterity. Then the anoraks met the mathematicians, and world records started to fall. According to the 1986 Guinness Book of Records, Minh Thai, a 16-year-old Vietnamese refugee, won the world's Rubik cube championship with a time of 22.95 seconds.

Now, if you believe the publicity, there is to be a resurgence in the popularity of the Rubik's cube. Hasbro has bought the worldwide rights to the cube, and it can now be found exclusively in Hamleys toy shop in Regent's Street. Hamleys say that they are very popular and selling quickly, so if you want to become a numb-fingered gibbering anorak, we suggest you buy your cube now.

Sam Coates

heavenly The far-out influence of Pluto

Currently there seems to be a raft of books concerned with bridging the generations. First a book on sons and mothers, in which the broadcaster Jon Soow angered his brother by outing their mother's wig. Now Chatto has come up with an *Anthology of Fathers*.

The cynical might think that this is nothing but a typical publishing ploy to fill the Christmas pre-set generation gap, but it may be as much due to the fact that the planet Pluto has recently changed signs.

Pluto is a curious planet, the outermost known in our solar system. Modern astrology seems to go haywire when it tries to incorporate such a murky sphere into its system of prognosis. For one thing, Pluto is so far away that even the most

besotted stargazer cannot argue that, unlike the sun or moon, Pluto can have any physical effect on the earth or its inhabitants. And its power is supposed to be so vast, and its effects so slow and deep, that astrology's limited vocabulary is hard put to let us mere mortals know what's in it for us.

The planet is interesting none the less. Take generations. Pluto was first spotted in 1939, and in tune with its penchant for leaving huge upheavals in its wake, found the world in arguably its greatest crisis yet. At the time Pluto was discovered, it had just entered the sign of Leo, the only sign ruled by the sun, the sign of the ego. Cogito ego Pluto. This does not mean it was crossing in front of the constellation of the lion, but rather through the



Ann Geneva

mathematical 30-degree portion of the sky which astrologers assign to Leo. Pluto's habitation of Leo lasted until 1956, giving it most of the responsibility for what is called the Me Generation.

The generation before us baby boomers found Pluto in Cancer, sign of home and hearth. This makes our parents' generation, the subject of all these books, the group

for whom the ground of their being was the family. Which does seem to fit. Then we came along, the post-war wild egomaniacs, and we've been calling attention to ourselves ever since. What other generation could have produced the spotlight-hoggers Mick Jagger and Camille Paglia, than that of Pluto in Leo?

The bunch who came afterwards have Pluto in Virgo. They are thought to be unusually tuned in to each other, even unconsciously coordinating their movements in groups such as classrooms. They are also no doubt over-organised, as well as being excruciatingly dull and quonidian.

Then come the Pluto in Libra group, who are certain to be "nice", just like Canadians.

Scorpio being down and dirty. Pluto's transit through it – commencing in the Orwellian year of 1984 – has brought us all those sordid revelations of child abuse at boys' homes and public schools. Long-term traducers such as the Wests and the Belgian paedophile ring, have been dragged into the light – it's been like opening a grave. There seems something extra powerful to these disclosures, since both Pluto and its ruler Scorpio have an affinity for death. Mini-demonic practices such as gangsta rap and body-piercing have also thrived.

Mercifully for us more superficial types, Pluto has this year moved along into Sagittarius, where it promises to do no more than totally disrupt world governments over the next couple of decades.

in addition

The revelation, a week ago, that 42 is indeed the answer to Life, the Universe and Everything – or at least the value of Hubble's constant, which comes to much the same thing – has delighted all fans of Douglas Adams. Since then, a spate of 42-sightings have confirmed – in the minds of true believers at least – its all-pervading nature.

On the very same day as the Hubble report, the "Number of the Day" on our sports pages was none other than 42. The following Monday saw the sad death of Marjorie Proops after 42 years as an agony aunt; then on Wednesday we noticed there were 42 days left until Christmas. Finally, on Thursday morning the Duchess of York told Sue McGregor that in the early years of her marriage, she and Prince Andrew had been together only 42 days each year.

Furthermore, Don Stallybass, the high priest of Britain's fortytwos, has written to us to point out that on page 42 of *The Fontana Dictionary of Modern Thought*, an entry for "atomic clock" mentions that one second equals 9,192,631,770 cycles of vibration of a Caesium atom. And that number is, believe it or not, divisible by 42.

We all know about the original 42 articles of the Church of England, a 42-armed Hindu goddess, the 42 sacrifices of Balach in the Book of Numbers, the 42 demons that decided the fate of ancient Egyptians and the "forty and two" mouths the Book of Revelation predicted the Gnostics would tread the holy city, but does all this really confirm 42 as the answer to everything? After all, there is a one in 42 chance that any number will be divisible by 42.

So we have run some tests – on cricketers, and Leodons named D Adams. For each cricketer in *Wisden*, we noted whether the total number of runs he scored last season was divisible by 42; for each D Adams, we asked his phone number, with or without 0174, 071, 0181 or 081. Here are the results, with the figures expected by chance.

cricketers	Total	Exp	Actual
D Adams (no prefix)	286	6.61	4
D Adams (+0174/0181)	66	1.57	2
D Adams (+0174/081)	66	1.57	1
D Adams (+071/081)	66	1.57	0

Most results are below chance, though they provide evidence that Ofsted did, if anything, make matters worse with the number changes. We conclude, however, that 42 is not the answer to Life, the Universe and Everything.

William Hartston

earthly Robbie deserves an award, too

Robbie Williams: he's come a long way, but he's not too sure where he's been. Hotel rooms can do that to you. Where the Boy Who Killed Take That was on Thursday was presenting the MTV Europe Music Awards, bless his velvet suit and plimsolls, and he was jolly brave about it. His feet wobbled nervously all night, but he got through. No wonder he's been wearing that straitjacket on the telly the last couple of weeks. Drink and drugs hell? Pre-publicity, love.

The thing is, TV and truth lie a long way apart. The camera's picked up a crowd of maniacs waving their hands and cheering themselves pink in the face. That was about an eighth of the crowd. The rest was music business people, their friends and

their friends' friends. The girl in front of me said some people there had paid £150 for a seat. Wooders will never cease.

Music business people make bad crowds. Enthusiasm among this anthropological group is about as welcome as a fireworks display in Sarajevo. The poor lams were, of course, under considerable strain, as the organisers at Alexandra Palace insisted on serving their free beer in plastic glasses rather than bottles, but still, I've seen more enjoyment at the Royal Courts of Justice. They were jiggered if they were going to be the first one seen clapping, or laughing, or enjoying themselves.

Except Robbie. And even Robbie's famous grin rapidly slipped into a grim line of horror. It was somewhere around the



Serena Mackesy

first advert break. Some joker had booked the silver-tongued Mark Lamarr to play warm-up man while the big stars mopped their brows. Mark tried to raise a laugh by saying "cunt". Then he said it again. Then he launched into the sort of we're-all-mates-here "irreverent" vitriol that made *The Word* such an unqualified success. "Hasn't Robbie lost

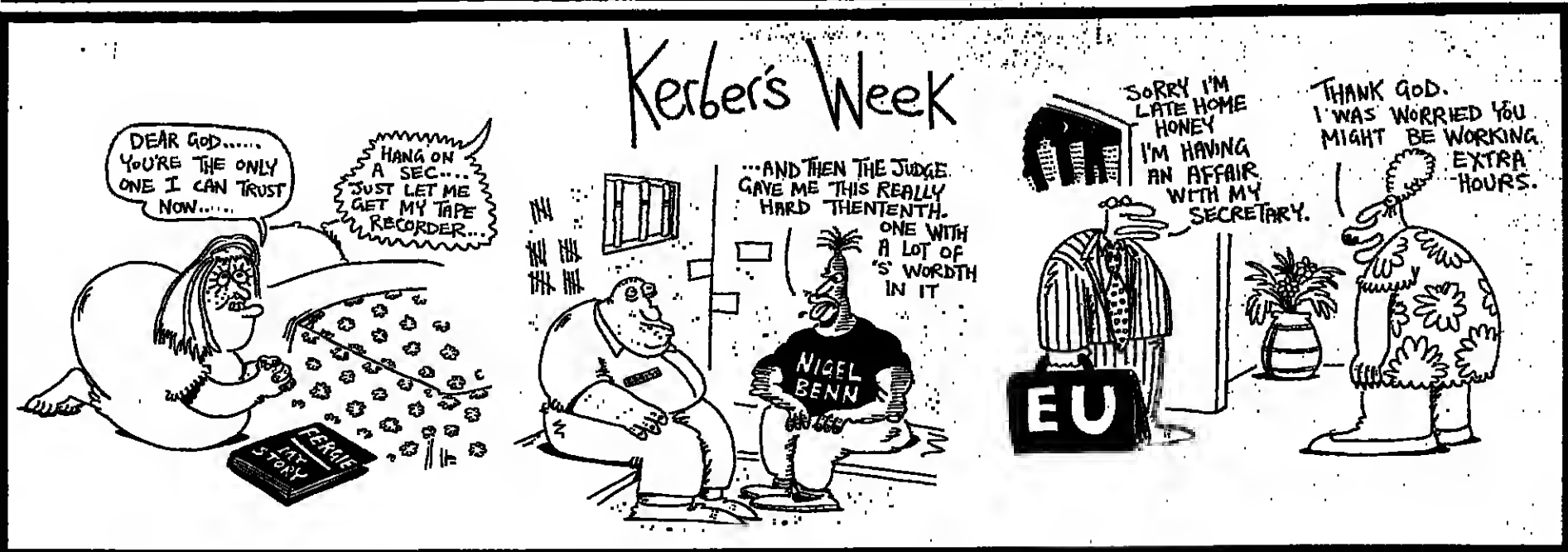
weight, ladies and gentlemen?" he said. "You used to be a real fat fucker, didn't you, Robbie?" Robbie wasn't having any of it. "Better a fat fucker than an ugly fucker, Mark," he replied.

Even the music hit. Robbie started to show signs of confidence. His accent, which had been showing alarming southernisation, relaxed a bit. By the time he shouted in the Smashing Pumpkins I was feeling the same affection I get from a bottle of Scotch and the *Take That Greatest Hits* video. There's a tank on t'runway, Robbie. Oops, sorry; that was Jason, wasn't it? "Here's a lovely lad," said Robbie, and George Michael emerged, with a dozen dancing extras, from a limo. George wore a frock coat and looked

like the Master in *Doctor Who*. The audience loosed off a cannon of funeral applause. Virtually the last one of the evening. By the time Metallica played "So Fucking What", it felt more like a comment on crowd reaction than the post-modern philosophical statement it obviously is.

Boyzone and Peter Andre ritually slaughtered some Sixties and Seventies covers, hand playing one pitch, lads singing another, proving that neither singing nor dancing ability is obligatory for stardom. This was too much for Robbie. He took the stage, and did a slidey thing with his legs. "Boy bands," he said. "That takes me back. 'Cause you know who I used to be?"

Oh, bless. And he's handy with a paintbrush, as well.



weekend weather

The British Isles

General Situation and 5-Day Outlook:

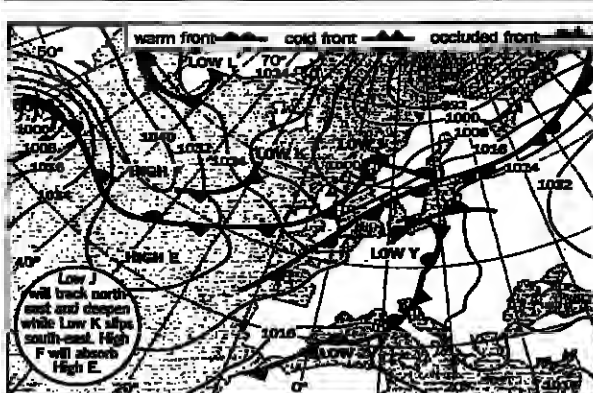
Pressure will be low from Scandinavia to the central Mediterranean for the next few days with a cold northwest flow over the British Isles.

Today, rain over Scotland will clear away to the south as brighter weather and some sunshine spreads from the north. However, there will be wintry showers and a chilly northwest wind. Northern Ireland will see rain giving way to sunshine and showers for the afternoon, but with a cool wind. Patchy fog over England and Wales will lift, and it should stay dry to the south with some sunshine and light winds. However, rain will be moving south.

Sunday will see rain in the south clearing to leave the whole of the country with a mix of sunshine and wintry showers. Monday also promises some sunshine after a frosty start. There will, though, be snow showers to the north while rain or snow spreads into the southwest. Sleet and snow is expected across the southern half of the country during Tuesday with sunshine and snow showers to the north. The cold weather will then continue through the middle of the week with snow showers.

Aberdeen	r	11	52
Anglesey	dr	11	52
Armagh	dr	11	52
Belfast	m	10	50
Birmingham	m	7	48
Blackpool	c	9	48
Bournemouth	s	11	52
Brighton	s	7	45
Bristol	s	9	48
Cardiff	c	7	45
Carlisle	c	9	48
Dover	dr	11	52
Dublin	dr	10	50
Edinburgh	c	12	54
Exeter	c	8	46
Glasgow	c	12	54
Guernsey	f	10	50
Inverness	c	11	52
Ipswich	s	9	48
Isles of Scilly	c	12	54
Jersey	s	9	48
Liverpool	dr	9	48
Lizard	c	10	50
London	s	10	50
Manchester	s	9	48
Newcastle	c	9	48
Nottingham	c	7	45
Oxford	c	8	46
Plymouth	c	8	46
Ronalds	dr	11	52
Scarborough	c	9	48
Southampton	s	10	50
Southend	s	8	46
Stoneway	c	9	48
Torquay	f	11	52
Tor	c	8	46

Europe and The World



WORLD WEATHER YESTERDAY, MONDAY (GMT): c, cloudy; fair, f; fog; rain, r; snow, s; sunny, sh; thunder, t; previous day's figure at local time.

Amsterdam	s	5	41
Athens	s	19	66
Auckland	c	19	66
Bangkok	c	13	93
Barcelona	sh	7	45
Beirut	s	24	75
Berlin	s	8	46
Bombay	c	4	39
Brussels	c	32	90
Budapest	c	14	57
Buenos Aires	c	14	57
Cairo	s	25	77
Cape Town	s	12	64
Casablanca	c	19	66
Christchurch	c	19	66
Copenhagen	s	6	43
Corfu	r	19	66
Darwin	s	33	91
Florence	s	19	66
Frankfurt	c	5	41
Geneva	c	7	45
Gibraltar	r	15	59
Helsinki	c	6	43
Hong Kong	c	25	77
Islamabad	c	13	55
Jerusalem	r	18	64
Johannesburg	r	20	68
Kuala Lumpur	s	31	88
Lisbon	c	14	57
Los Angeles	c	15	59
Madrid	s	9	48
Malaga	c	17	63
Malta	c	24	75
Melbourne	c	18	64
Moscow	r	6	43
Munich	c	7	45
New York	c	3	37
Nice	c	15	59
Nicosia	c	24	75
Paris	s	5	41
Prague	m	4	39
Riyadh	sn	1	34
Roskilde	c	34	93
Rybak	c	16	61
Rome	c	21	70
Singapore	c	29	84
Stockholm	c	4	39
Sydney	c	25	77
Tenerife	s	23	73
Tokyo	s	16	61
Toronto	s	16	61
Vancouver	c	17	63
Vienna	r	7	45
Warsaw	s	5	41
Washington	c	2	36
Wellington	c	18	64

M5 Gloucestershire, J17 Bristol (West) (A4018/9405) Cribbs Causeway, roadworks on the junction roundabout mean severe delays. Diversion during construction of new road layout.

M1 Hertfordshire. Between J8 Hemel Hempstead (A414) and J9 Redbourn (A5/A5183), restrictions each night: M10 closed northbound, no entry at J8 and the M1 down to 1 lane northbound.

A4 Greater London. Between West Kensington (B317 North End Road) and Hammersmith River (A219/A306/A315), roadworks both ways between Gidley Road and North End Road. Some lanes, Gloucestershire. Tonight will close many roads in the town centre.

Out and about with AA Roadwatcher call 0300 4015 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 30p per min (cheap rates 45p per min incl other times) inc VAT.

Air Quality

London	NO ₂	SO ₂
S England	Moderate	Good
Wales	Moderate	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

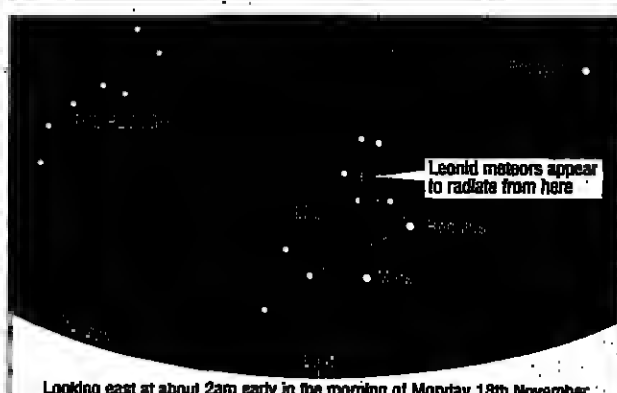
Outlook for Today

London	Moderate	Good
S England	Moderate	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

High Tides

London	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	04.32	6.6	17.23	6.7
Liverpool	02.15	6.6	14.40	6.8
Aberdeen	10.23	12.4	22.40	12.0
Hull (All Saints)	09.34	7.0	21.45	7.0
Glasgow	08.30	3.4	15.46	3.6
Dun Laoghaire	02.41	3.9	15.00	4.0

The Sky at Night



Looking east at about 2am early in the morning of Monday 18th November

The Leonid meteor shower peaks tomorrow night. The best chance of spotting shooting stars is after the constellation Leo has risen, at about 2am, and from then on till dawn. Some Leonids could be around into the early part of next week. Unlike some other showers, the Leonids don't perform equally well year in year out. They put on their best show about every 33 years. The last spectacle was a 40-minute "storm", seen in the US in 1966, when meteors rained down at a rate of several a second. Observations over the last couple of years hint that the Leonids are steaming up as 1999 approaches, so the 1996 outlook is promising. Weather permitting, the sky will be good and dark for meteor watchers this year, since the Moon, at first quarter, sets before Leo rises.

A look back at the week's weather

It's been changeable, with much of the UK seeing at least half an inch of rain. The wettest place was Eastbourne in East Sussex, with 1.43 inches. It has also been sunny, with 5 to 8 hours of sunshine across the UK, and many places have seen temperatures in the very mild category, up to 14C in Guernsey. Overnight values have been down to -5C in parts of Hampshire, and as low as -8C in parts of Scotland.

Sun and Moon

Sun sets	7:20pm
Sun rises	4:05pm
Moon rises	11:55pm
Moon sets	8:40pm
Full moon	25 Nov

You'd have to look hard to find a smaller fare.

Contact your local travel agent or call for details on

0345 554554 OR 0345 I FLY BM

British Midland The Airline for Europe

Return fare from London Heathrow. Available on selected dates and flights. Subject to availability. Travel must include a Saturday night stay. Passenger taxes will apply.



London	4:05pm	7:22am
Bristol	4:19pm	7:32am
Birmingham	4:13pm	7:33am
Manchester	4:10pm	7:33am
Newcastle	4:01pm	7:43am
Glasgow	4:08pm	7:57am
Belfast	4:20pm	7:58am
Torquay	4:08pm	7:24am
Brighton	4:18pm	7:34am
Birmingham	4:12pm	7:35am
Manchester	4:09pm	7:40am
Newcastle	4:00pm	7:45am
Glasgow	4:06pm	7:55am
Belfast	4:19pm	8:00am

سكنا من الامم

THEATRE Everyman, The Other Place, Stratford-on-Avon

Medieval morality as you've never seen it before – Theatre de Complicité-style. The production has some divine touches: if only the accents didn't bring you back down to Earth. By Paul Taylor



The physical route to spiritual enlightenment: Joseph Mydell and Josette Bushell-Mingo in 'Everyman'

Photograph: Tristram Kenton

Given the recent productions of Goethe's cosmos-spanning *Faust* and Byron's abyss-traversing *Cain*, the RSC seems to be taking it as its duty to yank us to the theological extremities on a fairly regular basis. This policy continues now with a revival in the Other Place of *Everyman*, the anonymous late 15th-century morality play whose generic title character achieves heaven at the end, but only after a long, arduous pilgrimage teaches him the worthlessness of worldly things, the treacherous inconsistency of friends, kindred and of one's own inner faculties and the contrasting steadfast value of the sacraments and of good deeds.

Anyone who thinks that medieval morality plays consist in the stiff shuffling round of faceless abstractions will be puzzled as to why Katie Mitchell, who is running this year's Other Place season, has recruited Kathryn Hunter and Marcello Magni to stage the piece. These performer-directors are best known for the expressionist physicality of their work with Theatre de Complicité, but, as the introduction to the new tie-in edition of the play rightly points out, *Everyman* has many proto-expressionist and proto-absurdist elements that fast-forward you to playwrights such as Beckett and Ionesco (not to mention the Dürrenmatt of that modern morality play *The Visit*, which was one of Complicité's greatest hits).

Expertly deploying a corporeally quirky cast on a barish set of rock-strewn and scorched, baked earth, and using costumes and music that have a 20th-century East European feel, the

production revels in fleshing out this death manual's theological propaganda and implications. That is evident from the outset, where we see *Everyman* (played by the physically imposing black actor, Joseph Mydell) soaking in a tin bath, his long limbs dangling outside of it, the eyes on his flung-back head closed in luxurious content. Tellingly, on a nearby rock, there lies, alongside his wallet, a gold Rolex watch: lost in sybaritism, *Everyman* forgets that you never know when your time may be up and you will be called to account.

On the next occasion when he sinks, exhaling with quiet horror, into this tub, it has become his earth-filled grave. Between those two points, the production wheels in all those personified types who make, often by default, his pilgrimage a spiritual progress. These include Good Deeds – presented as a potato-faced, Scots-accepted peasant woman (Myra McFadyen), who (in a very Beckettian touch) strains unavailingly to rise from the ground until *Everyman*'s confession of his sins renews her strength – and Beauty, Strength and the Five Wits who zoom in, like some very alternative circus act, on a ramshackle makeshift motorbike and sidecar.

The production is best at the clowning verve with which it conveys and subtly modernises the wriggling bad faith of *Everyman*'s false friends and the swarm of charlatan priests. It is less persuasive in its depiction of the hero's penitential progress and his assumption into heaven. Rather than lash himself, this *Everyman* drags round, oxen-like, a rock tied to his ankle. Fine,

except that this loses the intended correspondence with Christ's Passion. And some of the characteristic Complicité subversiveness spills over into areas where a straight-faced bow to orthodoxy might seem to be required. The final tableau, in which, up in Heaven, a more than mildly hairwashed-looking angel (Edward Woodall) holds a still out-of-it *Everyman* in a *Fleat* pose, does not have one pining to gatecrash the alleged party at this address.

The American actor, Joseph Mydell, with his large, anguished features and his lean, powerful physique, brings a charismatic suffering dignity to the central role. Vocally, though, his delivery is hampered by the fact that he is being called upon to use a very proper "poetry-speaking" English accent. The over-careful elocution cuts you off from the emotion. What, after all, is to stop a representative sinner from sounding American?

It's ironic, in fact, that the question of accents should come up here, for when William Poel directed his historic revival of *Everyman* in London in 1901, the critic of *The Times* complained that the actor playing Fellowship had a North Country intonation. And we all know that any self-respecting abstraction would be pure Home Counties, vocally. Perhaps Heaven is full of people who have the diction of Patricia Hughes and Purgatory crammed with Angela Rippon sound-alikes. Is there a hierarchy of accents, even in Eternity?

In rep at *The Other Place*, Stratford. Bookings: 01789-295623

POP MUSIC Jamiroquai, Royal Albert Hall, London

Singer Jasoo Kay had been suffering from shingles and a throat infection, and had cancelled the first leg of his British tour. ("I dragged myself off my sick bed to be here... basically, the prospect of giving you all your tickets back was too scary.") But when his band took over from what had been a solid and capable support act, the gulf that opened up was ocean-wide. Jamiroquai have a thousand musical tricks up their sleeves, and they came out using all of them: edgy, dissonant brass lines played as crisply as James Brown's but complicated by the intricacies of contemporary jazz; a wider variety of tempos than is common in British funk; energetic bass lines and rhythms hastened from disco; a DJ using turntables to provide a constant commentary of scratching.

Kay himself is clearly the dynamo that makes each part of the machine work. The cynics still get over-heated about him once sounding too much like Stevie Wonder – as if that was the greatest musical crime – but it's his cocky West London charisma that gives the band its identity. Whether it was a hall of disco-fuelled funk, Kay sang with that kind of effortless musicality that is so rare that it's surely just too churlish to praise his influences instead. They played music from all three albums, plus the odd cover and what sounded like

a new tune, which was good, at a time when so many gigs degenerate into long pay-per-view adverts for a new album. "Emergency on Planet Earth" has become something like a Jamiroquai anthem, and was received like one. "Return of the Space Cowboy" turned cleverly into a long, trippy rhythm workout – a sense of *hazy* *cada* percussion turned unfamiliar by thick, synthesised sounds. The band's star didgeridoo man Wallace Buchanan made his traditional appearance, providing a cavernous, mumbled foundation to the deeply funky "Journey To Arnhemland", and, on "Didjital Vibrations", made the didgeridoo sound like the instrument missing from all those Whiffenpoof-Strong, psychedelica-era Temptations tracks.

The only let-down was provided by the venue. The Royal Albert Hall just wasn't built with drummers in mind; and while choirs might sound great with a hefty dose of natural reverb, it really takes the wind out of a good funk rhythm section's sails, to hear all the snap, crackle and pop a second time on its way back from the walls and ceiling. It is to the band's credit, that they still managed to put in the kind of gritty but polished, soulful performance that made lots of people put oo

big, furry hats, and dance.

Linton Chiswick



Jason Kay: sick of body, but sound of soul Rex Features

CLASSICAL MUSIC

John Tilbury Plays Morton Feldman, Planet Tree Music Festival, Conway Hall, London

It's a long time since I've felt so profoundly moved by any concert as I was at last Tuesday evening's recital by the pianist John Tilbury. Appropriately presented in the Conway Hall, seat of the South Place Ethical Society, the experience of listening to 80 continuous minutes of music felt like a prayer gathering. Tilbury, a veteran of the avant-garde and one of our most sensitive performers, was giving the UK premiere of Morton Feldman's *Triadic Memories*.

Written in 1981, this is one of the American composer's later works (he

died in 1987), in which his interest in long duration was fully fledged. But the music itself is of restraint, introversion – a music, like all his music, that isn't trying to go anywhere, isn't trying to impress.

Feldman once said, "My obsession with surface is the subject of the music. In that sense, my compositions are really not 'compositions' at all. One might call them time canvases in which I more or less prime the canvas with an overall hue of the music." Feldman's music is infamously soft but it is this very softness that demands a quality of listening freed

from the cultural baggage of most late 20th-century music. One emerges not only with cleaner ears but with a cleaner soul. As John Tilbury has written, "Feldman's music enhances the consciousness of the instrument at which, or with which, the musician sits. This, together with an emphasis on the sensual and physical qualities of the art of performance, creates the necessary indivisibility of musician and instrument and, at best, of music and audience."

Well, for 80 minutes a modest crowd sat absolutely still with no wriggling, no

fidgeting and but a single cough – which did sound volcanic. A tribute to the incredible concentration of Tilbury's performance. Feldman's writing demands virtuosity but it is a virtuosity that has nothing to do with velocity or, as Barthes has put it, "petty digital scramble".











The very leanness of the material forces focus, and creates a stasis that is both frozen and, at the same time, vibrating. This is a music you listen *into*. Patterns are reiterated, turned, tumbled, taking on a new perspective, a new relief in relation to their predecessors. Moments

of real lushness occur caused by so little – a single line turned into throbbing seconds, rolling major thirds dulled and dimmed by parallel notes, a switch of register from high to low pitches, a "sitting" on rumbling low notes that give off the widest range of overtones, an exquisite balance between the choice of high and low register and the impeccable timing of reiterated patterning.

This is music at its most chaste, even though there is a sense, time and time again, of powerful drama caused by the movement of so little.

Tilbury sat virtually motionless in shaded profile, the light of an old-fashioned standard lamp was all that was offered. Since his death, Feldman's music has been largely neglected. But then, he always used to say "most of the music you hear in London is official music, as if written for the London Sinfonietta..." For London read Paris, Milan, Cologne, Vienna. And, of course, Feldman needs performers like Tilbury. Alas, too rare a breed.

Annette Morreau

 <p>THE WEEK IN REVIEW David Benedict</p>					
		THE MUSICAL	THE FILM	THE PLAY	THE ALBUM
		Scrooge	The First Wives Club	Light Shining in Bucks	The Lightning Seeds
overview		The stage version of the film <i>Scrooge</i> with book, music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse, and Anthony Newley in the title role. Tudor Davies revives Bob Tomson's original stage production, designed by Paul Farnsworth.	Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton and Bette Midler take revenge on lousy men after Stockard Channing kills herself when her spouse dumps her for a bimbo. Hugh Wilson directs Robert Harling's script polished by Paul Rudnick.	Mark Wing-Davey directs Caryl Churchill's neglected play about the pain, politics and passions of the Levellers, Diggers and Ranters of the English Civil War, with the National Theatre education and touring department.	The Merseyside pop combo, who gave the world "Three Lions", the catchy (as in contagious) theme tune to <i>Euro 96</i> , follow up their album <i>Jollification</i> with the dangerously named <i>Dizzy Heights</i> .
critical view		Edward Seckerson liked Newley but, as for the musical, "thank you very much, but no". "Does not bode well for the musicals of Christmas future," wailed the <i>Times</i> . "A picture-book musical every child deserves to see," dribbled the <i>Mail</i> . "This underdone, over-stuffed old turkey," cringed the <i>Standard</i> . "Embarrassing... go and see <i>Swan Lake</i> instead. Or almost anything else," advised the <i>FT</i> . "Dreadfully unmemorable... entirely unimoving," summarised the <i>Telegraph</i> .	Adam Mars-Jones pointed to the cast, the blithering and the regular savage one-liners, "but don't get your hopes up too high". "The film would be nothing without its stars," observed the <i>Times</i> . "A raucous sitcom with non-stop punch lines," nodded the <i>Standard</i> . "The premise is sound enough... what sinks the whole outing is the absence of plot twists and some truly flaccid slapstick," sighed the <i>FT</i> . "Great actresses who deserve something better," lamented the <i>Spectator</i> .	Robert Hanks declared it "remarkable... Hard to believe this was written nearly two decades before Tony Blair took over the Labour Party... absorbing." "A startling piece of theatre... Amelita Brown glows with determination and the serenity of faith... a powerful rebuke to our 20th-century cynicism," praised the <i>Telegraph</i> . "If the purpose of an educational tour is to stimulate thought and argument, then the National could hardly have chosen better," admired the <i>Times</i> .	Andy Gill was disappointed. "The album languishes in the huge shadow cast by the Beatles... the gap between homage and parody has all but disappeared." "Contains some sugary-sweet three-minute pop beauties, but there's a creeping Tunes R Us feel to Broudie's songsmithery," admonished the <i>Mail on Sunday</i> . "As good as it gets," pronounced Q. "The tunes lie seductive and seduced in the noonday sun, bedazzling. So, he dazzled," gushed <i>Melody Maker</i> .
on view		At the Dominion Theatre, London W1. (0171-416 6060)	Cert PG, on general release.	In educational and small-scale venues before playing in rep at the National's Cottesloe theatre (0171-928 2252) from January.	Epic 4866402
our view		More a threat than a treat. Richard Briers in <i>A Christmas Carol</i> at the Lyric Hammersmith looks a much better bet.	What can you say of a movie which attempts to make an icon out of Ivana Trump?	A typically passionate, clear-sighted play from one of our greatest contemporary dramatists.	Another day, another product for the Beatles heritage industry. Broudie can probably do better than this.
KEY					
 EXCELLENT					
 GOOD					
 OK					
 POOR					
 DEADLY					

Gleaming, naked and nasty

Andrew Marr compares two approaches to the century's greatest artist

A Life of Picasso. Volume II, 1907-1917 by John Richardson, Cape, £30
Portrait of Picasso as a Young Man by Norman Mailer, Little, Brown, £25

Picasso may be a great artist. All the same, he is a wretched man. Thus Marie Laurencin, not a great artist, after the death from cancer of Eva Goud, Picasso's putative bride and mistress. Almost all artists' biographies stir up the argument about the relationship between character and work. Moralists will always want to connect X's reprehensible politics or Y's cowardice with flaws in the painting, novels or music. Yet common sense suggests that human personalities are divided, so that people who behave meanly in the flesh, can be generous-spirited and great-souled in their work.

Pablo Picasso confronts us with these problems at their most intricate. He wasn't an evil man in his politics, and the easy description "woman-hater" fails to get anywhere near his fascination with femalehood, swinging him between intoxicated eroticism and extreme loathing. But he is an easy target. For many years, his misogynistic selfishness and occasional cruelty, his physical cowardice and envious pride have been picked over by the termite-colony of psychological biographers, leaving him gleaming, naked and nasty.

Does it matter? It does not diminish his art - Picasso is, in the end, the greatest artist of this century, the ultimate magician of form - but it helps us see his art differently. One thing he did was to reintroduce into painting many things that had been lost. He painted hatred and disgust as well as celebration. He painted idealised versions of love and of lovers; but he painted the raw dirtiness of sex as well. He introduced jokes and puns into high art. And he did all this because, in part, of the man he was.

Picasso's sometimes extreme behaviour and his totemic stature have made for some second-rate biographical writing in the past. There have been the dazzled worshippers, such as Roland Penrose, and the clawing furies, such as Arianna Stassinopolous Huffington. But since the first volume of John Richardson's *A Life* appeared in 1991, we have known that there was one sure guide, one thoughtful, balanced and highly readable detailed account in progress. The second volume is even better than the first.

After the breathtaking facility and verve of his early years, the decade 1907-17 takes Picasso into revolutionary mode. The blue and rose periods are behind him. He is still with his first serious muse, Fernande Olivier, and he is about to embark on the adventure of cubism, via the savagery of *Les Femmes d'Alger*, his half-Iberian-classical, half-tribal group portrait of prostitutes which, 90 years after it was painted, remains one of the most disturbing and shocking images in Western art.

Cubism is the big story of this book, a sudden break with many of the constants of Western art. The detail of that story is unavoidably absent in a biography. You strain to hear, and never can, those long and intricate arguments with Braque in the privacy of his studio. You want to go to his illustrations of the drawings and colour reproductions of the paintings which the book lacks. But Richardson's arguments about the key developments are compelling and sometimes novel. Given his pro-Picasso instinct, it is particularly interesting and eloquent that, time after time, he awards Braque the prize for key Cubist discoveries.

Meanwhile, there is plenty of action to punctuate the story of

Picasso's life through the decade. He moves from bohemian poverty in Montmartre to bourgeois plenty in Montparnasse, from the relative obscurity of factional leadership to real public fame. Throughout, he is surrounded by a large, colourful and changing cast of rivals, hangers-on, poets, self-publicists, mistresses, models, fakers and snipers. Richardson is brilliantly good in his pen-portraits of these characters, not least the dealers and collectors who made Picasso rich and famous.

The story includes the suicide of a friend, the arrival and return of a briefly adopted daughter, brushes with the law, the Simon Peter-like denial of Apollinaire in the dock, war and pacifism, the death of one mistress, the discarding of others, a menagerie of animals and the endless, multi-layered politics of the *avant-garde*. This is a genuine work of scholarship, and one emerges from it knowing far more about Picasso's behaviour and admiring his genius no less. It is a glorious thing to have in the house.

The comparison with this great work of scholarship and tact has not helped Norman Mailer, whose *Portrait of Picasso as a Young Man* seems designed to make professional critics sneer. It is a tumult of a biography, all fist-shaking defiance and breathtaking judgements such as the dismissal of a wonderful Cezanne harlequin as "clumsy... begging to be improved upon."

In fact, the clumsiest thing around is Mailer's prose, which can sometimes sound like a poor translation: "We can hardly conceive of how powerfully did objects impinge upon him." This book postures, rants and hectors - it is a caricature of literary machismo. Yet it has great qualities too. Mailer is not embarrassed to quote at length



Picasso's 'Woman in an Armchair', 1913

from other authors and contemporary observers, including Fernande herself and Gertrude Stein - passages from which Richardson extracts a single phrase to embed in his own text, are here reprinted *verbatim*. If you want the smell of Picasso's Paris, or of Barcelona wherehouses, or to hear the voices and arguments around him, this book is better than the better book.

Nor has Mailer's eye for a killer phrase wholly deserted him. For instance, Richardson has a lot to

say about Picasso's extraordinary, pear-headed friend, the damaged and clearly lovable poet Apollinaire. But nowhere does he achieve the fanfare Mailer gives him: "In keeping with specifications of a royal bastard, he was christened Wilhelm (later to be Guillaume) Wladimir Alexandre Apollinaire de Kostrowitzky. While not one third the length of Pablo Diego Jose Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno Maria de los Remedios Crispin Crispiano Santissima

Trinidad Ruiz y Picasso, it is notably more elevated. Of course, Apollinaire belonged to a rare sub-group - the lumpen-aristocracy..." One suspects that that's the kind of writing that would have got a round of applause in the Bateau-Lavoir.

Then, of course, there is sex. Mailer has an intuitive understanding of Picasso's machismo and shamanism that the average art critic lacks. He wades into arguments about sexual identity with

relish, focusing without embarrassment on Picasso's more pornographic scribbles. And if the psychological ruminations seem wild at times, again Mailer has a Picasso-like fascination with death, the female principle and so on. He doesn't flinch from the monstrous aspects of the genius's behaviour; he doesn't flinch from the glorious paintings either. Sometimes you can learn almost as much from a good bad book as from a straightforwardly good one.

Painting pictures in Soho and Greenwich Village

Richard Davenport-Hines reviews two artistic Lives

Francis Bacon: Anatomy of an Enigma by Michael Peppiatt, Weidenfeld, £20
Jasper Johns: Privileged Information by Jill Johnston, Thames & Hudson, £16.95

Biographies of painters are especially difficult. A painter's job is "to get the essence without being positive about facial shapes," as Francis Bacon said. The greatest painting in the 20th century has been anomalous and paradoxical: it has not told literal truths, but has provided mystifying hybrid images, repudiating the sort of pictorial story-telling about which spectators can make pedantic guesses and pride themselves on their cleverness in deciphering secret messages. As a result, modern painting can be trivialised if viewed biographically, and painters rightly fear that their images may be sterilised by a reductive or literal-minded biographer. The possibilities of a sympathetic, interpretative biography are shown in Michael Peppiatt's account of his friend Francis Bacon. The results of humourless, arrogant biographical interpretations are exemplified in Jill Johnston's rant about Jasper Johns.

Bacon's life followed a series of fractured literary models: childhood in a horsey Anglo-Irish family from Elizabeth Bowen, in youth a prostitute-thief from Genet, then a Baudelairean dandy, a Dosztoevskyan gambler, a Soho boozier from Colin MacInnes,

a masochist with Rimbaud's fascination for violence who ended in a senescent sexuality from Proust. Keith Vaughan's description of Bacon as a "spiv-existentialist" is wonderfully apt, for he never abandoned the fashionable nostrum of Soho and Greenwich Village in the 1940s that the key to a productive and amusing life was submission to chance and abasement before the consequences of arbitrary decisions. The result was a fractured, destructive life which, by the intensity of its abandonment to extreme instincts, gave Bacon superb powers of visual inventiveness.

Peppiatt first met Bacon in 1963, and though his memories of their conversations add a keen edge to his biography, he never forgets that Bacon surpasses him in both interest and achievement. Peppiatt hints that Bacon's need of emotional extremism to stimulate his creativity led him to exaggerate the desolation of his childhood, and writes with unpunished cheerfulness about Bacon's masochism, which is surely more basic to his painterly vision than homosexuality. His account of the evolution of Bacon's artistic ideas is confident, amusing and thought-provoking. Peppiatt is fascinating about the literary influences on Bacon's work such as T S Eliot's play *The Family Reunion* (1939). Though he tells us that Bacon often re-read Proust and declared that the first section of *Sodom et Gomorrah* "said everything there is to say about homosexuality", he should perhaps have compared Bacon's pictures of men shrieking in pain and roaring with pleasure with Proust's most terrifying volume, *Le Temps Retrouvé*, in which the narrator and characters endure the final saturnalia of a Baconian hell.

Bacon's images of previously unimagined horrors seemed outrageous in the 1940s and 1950s. The early pictures of Jasper Johns like *White Flag* (1955), *Green Target* (1956) and *Gary Alphabet* (1956) created equal scandal by playing with familiar designs like the Stars and Stripes or firing-range targets. The huge, abrupt success of his 1958 show broke the hegemony of Abstract Expressionism in the USA and prefigured the Pop Art movement. As one might expect from a painter whose most vital work has been an ironic teasing of famous emblems, Johns has said: "I'm interested in things which suggest

the world rather than the personality." His discreet, self-reliant persona is mistrusted, if not resented, in the confessional America of Oprah Winfrey, and has brought him the attention of Jill Johnston.

Johnston's agenda is for the "autonomous, incorruptible art object" which she calls "virtually a freak of culture" to be "nudged into the open, no longer a fugitive from important truths." Predictably in our age of tabloid Feudalism, the important truths from which Johnston implies that Johns is a fugitive are sexual, and most of her suggestions are exceedingly true. She has made one interesting observation, identifying Mathias Grunewald's 16th-century Isenheim altarpiece (much admired by Bacon) as a profound influence on Johns' later work. But her account of this is overblown and unnecessarily mysterious. It diminishes with a simplistic connection between the depiction of a monster and plague victim in Grunewald's altarpiece and the carcinomas associated with HIV. The rest of the book is discursive, incoherent and pompous drearily literal-minded and ill-written. Unsurprisingly, Johns reserved permission for his work to be reproduced in it.

Thinking Brillat-Savarin in a Delia world

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto savours a feast of literary food

Hungry for You by Joan Smith, Chatto, £17.99

No cultural indicator is more vivid than food. Tell me what you eat and I will tell you who you are. From cannibals to health-food freaks, people choose their menus as a source of self-transforming magic, enhancing their characters by appropriating the qualities of their diets. Culture began when the raw got cooked. Fireside settings turned eating into ritual. Cooking, when it started, was not just a way of preparing food but also of organising society. In today's microwave households, when communal eating has stopped, the end of cooking threatens us with a new kind of savage: the loneliness of the fast-food eater. If we want to be truly civilised, *il faut vivre pour manger et ne pas manger pour vivre*.

Yet the biggest market today is for boring, over-processed pap: and that goes for food literature as well as food. Readers who could have Brillat-Savarin settle for Delia Smith. Joan Smith's recipe for jaded minds and palates is an anthology of food-writing - a literary equivalent of *dim sum* or *tapas*. In one of her intriguingly selected passages, we learn that Duke Ellington, who liked to eat till he hurt, once

worked his way through all the 85 kinds of *hors d'oeuvres* at the Cafe Royal in The Hague. Joan Smith is driven by the same enquiring appetite, but better discernment. The purpose of *Hors d'oeuvres* is not to satisfy; nor can an anthology be exhaustive. It should set the jaws going and the juices flowing. It should titillate, not cloy. Joan Smith knows how to tweak the phagocytes into action.

She manipulates the reader's appetite daringly, "tonguing lips and churning acids at will. She arranges her material by wonderfully idiosyncratic themes. The first five courses are calculated to repel most of her readers. They deal with starvation, sex, bad food, cannibalism and over-eating. It is a tribute to Smith's menu-planning that even after harrow us with skin-taut anorexia, conjuring us with concentration-camp victims' bones, sickening us with "flesh like fresh butter", splattering us with buttermilk vomit and puzzling us with St Catherine's taste for pus ("Never in my life have I tasted food or drink sweeter or more exquisite"), she can still tempt us with her own favourite recipes.

Her judgement is admirable. Rosemary Conley

is smitten, hip and thigh. The Fifties diet-guru, Gaylord Hauser, is delicately ridiculed in his own words ("my Be More Beautiful Diet... you will be amazed at the way the fat rolls off.") If I ever get seven consecutive days at home, I shall try his preachy, starchless "Reducing Diet" - not to see whether I lose weight, but whether I retain my sanity.

Smith has an unerring eye for cranky, charlatanry and egotism of every kind. Her own taste in food is a triumph of good sense: she likes to gorge on liver with onions and chestnut cream. She sucks the pulp out of whole roast garlic cloves. She gives plenty of space to some of the finest writers on food: Brillat-Savarin, Elizabeth David, Laura Esquivel. She realises that much of the best work on the subject has to be garnered from general literature, not just explicitly foodie efforts: she would make a good editor for a literary companion to food.

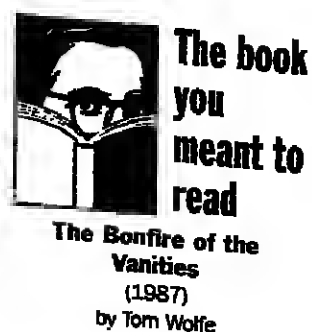
There are some pips in her macedoine. The introductions with which the selections are linked are the weakest parts of the book - hurriedly thrown off, inadequately researched. Some extracts are selected from secondary sources. Some are repetitive, like dubious

mackerels, some misplaced like a fingernail in a veal pie. Some, especially in the section on cannibalism, suggest that Smith should have done more work on the historical and anthropological literature before making her final selection.

Readers of anthologies are usually disappointed by inevitable omissions and Joan Smith deserves more praise than blame for putting together a defiantly personal book; but a chapter called "Eating Shit" should surely have had at least something on coprophagy; and it has to be admitted that - from a woman of catholic tastes and unconventional sympathies - the selection as a whole veers surprisingly towards modern western sources.

Only really interesting people should compile quirky anthologies. Joan Smith is fascinating and keeps you riveted, teased and annoyed all at once. Her *leitmotif* is sex. She discovered its connection with food when she fell out of love and turned to vegetarianism. Now that she is back on bloodily suppurating liver, venison and wild boar sausages, the reader can enjoy her book, comfortably reassured of her personal happiness.

150 من المجلد



The book you meant to read
The Bonfire of the Vanities (1987)
by Tom Wolfe

Plot: Sherman McCoy is a Wall Street bond dealer. Last year he earned \$980,000 but still needs more to fuel his lifestyle, wife and mistress. He is putting together a baroque financial deal/fiddle which will earn a commission of 1.75 million dollars. Driving his mistress, Maria, Sherman takes a wrong turn and finds himself in a destitute area of the Bronx. Misunderstanding two young blacks who offer to help, they panic; Sherman pulls his Mercedes out of trouble and kills one of the boys. Maria persuades Sherman to forget the incident. The victim's family is now exploited by a series of grotesques who turn the accident into a cause célèbre. Among these are the Reverend Reggie Bacon, a black preacher with a taste for incendiary rhetoric, and Peter Fellows, an English journalist who needs an exposé to service his expense account. The police trace Sherman and arrest him. The case is reported in stereo and New York feels self-congratulatory outrage. Sherman loses mistress, friends, flat, wife: all consumed in the Bonfire of the Vanities. The novel ends with a news report which scrupulously distorts the truth.

Theme: New York is a steaming stew of poverty and racial tension, bubbling with corruption. The rich are so wealthy and the poor so deprived that the notion of society has been abandoned.

Style: When on form, the language flashes like disco lights in an electrical storm. But there are some flat passages when Wolfe abandons satire to move the story on.

Chief strengths: The novel mimics Dickens and Thackeray in range and energy. Wolfe moves between different social levels with ease and his bite is venomous.

Chief weaknesses: Unlike Balzac and Trollope, Wolfe is not gripped by the process of money making. Sherman's financial chicanery is seen as infantile from the beginning.

What they thought of it then: New Yorkers were not happy and Wolfe was accused of racism and inciting conflict. But the book sold well, hyped after its serialisation in *Rolling Stone*. Over here it was as fashionable as red braces and champagne.

What we think of it now: The novel looks like an interesting experiment in reviving 19th century panoramic fiction. Critics awaited Wolfe's second novel with anticipation to see how the experiment would develop. They are still waiting.

Responsible for: Brian De Palma's dud film: stoking the fantasies of young clerks who dreamed of making pots of dosh in the City.
Gavin Griffiths



The books you listen to
The book of Paulo Coelho's brief but brilliant destiny fable, *The Alchemist*, (HarperCollins, 3hrs, £11.99), first translated into English last year, has sold over a million and a half copies. It's not too late to find out why. Like all proper stories, it works wonderfully well as an audiobook. More destiny-questing occurs in Dante's *Inferno* (Navos, 4hrs, £8.99), the latest in Navos Audio's series of Great Epics. Benedict Flynn's translation, read with deep involvement by Heathcote Williams, is to my mind an improvement on the more famous *terza rima* of Dorothy Sayers.
Christina Hardyment

NEW AUTHORS
PUBLISH YOUR WORK
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED
Fiction, Non Fiction, Biography, Poetry, Drama
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE WANTED
WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO
MINDWORK PRESS
2 OLD BISHOPSTON RD, LONDON SW17 3SD

Re-inventing Mary Anne

D J Taylor reads the life of a rebellious Victorian

George Eliot: *A Life* by Rosemary Ashton, Hamish Hamilton, £25

When Herbert Spencer, that epitome of Victorian high moral seriousness, began a campaign to exclude fiction from the shelves of the London Library, he made a point of omitting the novels of his friend George Eliot from the list. Reading Rosemary Ashton's absorbing new biography, it's easy to see why Spencer stayed his hand. In fact, to anyone bent on compiling a series of "Foundation Stones of the Victorian Mind" – a quintessentially Victorian exercise – *Middlemarch* would not look out of place next to *The Origin of Species* or Lyell's *Principles of Geology*. This hieratic, priestly flavour – capacity for thought, let us say – is one of Eliot's most attractive qualities; the one, too, that sets her apart from most of her contemporaries, many of whose fictive sociology can look simply amateurish when set against the paralyzing clarity of Eliot's vision. On this reading, Thackeray is a Regency atavist, Dickens the eternal parliamentary reporter with a journalist's knack of "getting up a subject" at short notice: with Eliot's novels there is a sense that the Victorian age, with all its arguments about rationalism and the moral life, is properly under way.

A moment's thought undermines this conception of Eliot as the "modern" Victorian for, as her new biographer shows, the origins of nearly all her fiction, their moral dilemmas and social panoramas, can be traced back to her Warwickshire childhood of the late 1820s. The prevailing tone of the average Eliot novel is made up of rural solidity, sedate Anglicanism sharpened by a whiff of Dissent, with the 1832 Reform Bill just around the corner. Like Dickens – and again very much like Thackeray – there is a feeling that the greater part of her imaginative life is simply marooned in the pre-Victorian

age. At the same time these backward-looking fictions – *Middlemarch* is really an historical novel, if you consider its distance from the events described – touch on most of the topics over which mid-Victorian society was prone to agonise: political reform, God (or rather the difficulties posed by the impossibility of proving his existence), even, in a subdued, roundabout way, the position of women.

Appropriately enough, for a woman who was to turn herself into one of the grandest of grand Victorian panjandrums, George Eliot's position was anomalous from the start. Her whole career seems marked by periodic reinventions of herself, and Ashton's competent marshalling of the different names by which she was known (a dozen, ranging from the initial Mary Anne Evans through epistolary pet-names like "Clematis" to the final Mary Ann Cross) reveals something of this chameleon quality. Quite as marked was her resolute transition from one kind of early-Victorian world to another. Beginning life as an archetypal "spare woman" and set to care for a declining father, she suddenly branches out into the role of spiritual doubter and blue-stocking autodidact, translating works of German theology and penetrating, via her friends the Hennells and the Brays, some very unorthodox local company. Then, with father dead and the family circle no longer congenial, she makes a yet more decisive break: heading off to London to work on the liberal-highbrow *Westminster Review*, and live amidst the curious *ménage à trois* conducted by its publisher John Chapman and his wife and governess at 142, The Strand.

The extent to which this arrangement may have metamorphosed into a *ménage à quatre*, Ashton investigates with her usual sober sedulousness (there are a couple of ambiguous references in Chap-

man's diary, nothing more). Certainly, Eliot's flightiness in affairs of the heart is at odds with her later reputation as the "strong-minded woman of the *Westminster Review*". There were several embarrassing early flirtations, and Chapman's diary supplies a revealing gloss on this odd, burrowing, inner life: "She pressed me for some intimation of the state of my feelings (I told her that I felt a great deal of affection for her, but that I love E. and S. also, though each in a different way). At this avowal, she burst into tears." Without doubt the scandalous relationship with the already-married G H Lewes, who moved in the same free-thinking literary circles of the early 1850s, released something pent-up in her, for the torrent of fiction began within a couple of years and its first outpourings – *Scenes From Clerical Life*, *Adam Bede* and *The Mill on the Floss* – came tumbled together. Lewes's role as her impresario, his encouragement, his ability to fix lucrative contracts (George Smith gave her a record-breaking £10,000 for *Romola* in 1862, which he later came to regret) and shield her from hostile criticism has rarely been so well brought out. Under Lewes's supervision, too, she settled into the kind of routine demanded by a low-spirited woman whom the polite world was chary of being seen with – long periods of work interspersed with continental travel of the "improving" sort and a little society that was predominantly male and unimpeachably high-flown.

Ashton is good on the powerful tensions that give Eliot's life its lasting sheen. For all her early personal rebelliousness, her later radicalism was rather muted, and an 1867 foray into print to remind newly-franchised voters of the responsibilities of their position is very innocuous. Her legendary fastidiousness can look merely perverse, as when she remarks of one particu-



George Eliot: "paralysing clarity of vision"

HULTON GETTY

larly glowing notice that "it is so unimbed in its praise that if I had any friends, I should be very uneasy lest a friend should have written it". Taken together, this is a model introduction to Eliot – well-researched, unexcitable (in which respect it differs from last year's effort by Frederick Karl), grating only in its occasional laying on of the middlebrow trowel ("In the manner of writers from Chaucer and Shakespeare to Scott and Wordsworth and Jane Austen, she catches the paradoxes of human life, the ugliness as well as the beauty..." etc etc) and the constraint of its length (400 pages) which forbids much in the way of radical departures from the central track.

Towards the end it all got a little unreal and sacramental. There were absurd, gushing admirers ("Darling," wrote one woman, "the Spanish Gypsy made me sad, it was so noble; the poetry was beautiful, but must noble women always fall?"). Lewes died, and she made an impetuous late marriage to a much younger man of business, John Cross (there is a mystery about him throwing himself into the Grand Canal at Venice while on honeymoon, about which Ashton is rather vague). The novelist Eliza Lynn Linton invokes that "assumption of special sacredness" which got Eliot into such trouble after her death, when Meredith dismissed her as an "errant woman" and Lewes as a

"mercurial little showman". This distance from most of Victorian life – forced upon her in any case – had its symbolic properties; Edmund Gosse remembered her being driven around London in a carriage, "massive features" topped by a bonnet in the latest Parisian fashion. Thackeray's daughter, Anne Ritchie, characterised her as "not exactly a personal friend, but a good and benevolent impulse": very much the personality that emerges from the novels. She believed, Ashton tells us somewhere, that Art is the nearest thing to life. Applied to the succeeding generations of writers who imagined that life was the nearest thing to Art, this seems an uncannily prophetic rebuke.

Heels down, head up, hands together

Frances Spalding revels in life's gymkhana

Fair Girls and Grey Horses. Memories of a Country Childhood by Josephine, Diana and Christine Pullett-Thompson, Allison & Busby, £15.99

Courage, patience and talent are rewarded in the fictional world created by the Pullett-Thompson sisters. Their pony stories during the Fifties and Sixties incited children to be brave and to hope for success. Today there are people in all walks of life who were sparked by between them the sisters have written 150 pony-story books, as well as adult novels, crime fiction, biographies and much else. In this autobiography, their three voices create a composite picture of their childhood. It offers brisk approval (a housemistress is "admirably decisive") and obstructed feelings ("The dogs were a great emotional stand-by") and reveals the blend of stoicism and romanticism which breed in all three a desire to write.

Even the fourth child became a playwright. But because he was a boy and sent away to school, Denis makes only an intermittent appearance in this book. So much was going on in the Pullett-Thompson home, where the children were encouraged to be endlessly active, that attention had to be given to the here and now, especially to animals, which increased in number until the sisters had their own riding school, two stables and 42 horses.

How did it all begin? The catalyst, it seems, was Mamma, the novelist Joanna Cannon who ignored a nurse's notice ("Put away that scribbling dear, Baby's coming") and rivalled her friend, George Heyer, with her prolific output. She was scatty and arrogant, careless over her

daughters' education yet capable of the inspired gift. Her married life had begun in Wimbledon where she bred Sealham terriers. Later, when they moved to Peppard in Oxfordshire, she introduced her children to horses and wrote *A Pony for Joan*, which is said to have begun a new genre in children's books. She admired the unorthodox, but in some ways was deeply conventional. "Are the twins normal?" asked a Wimbledon neighbour. "Good God, I hope not," she replied. Yet when they developed learning difficulties, she assumed their problems would be solved by marriage to rich men.

The twins, Diana and Christine, had their own language and, when small, were only able to talk to each other. Josephine, 18 months older, sometimes felt lonely watching them play. All three tumbled off horses, played Murder in the Dark and were fond of reciting rousing poetry, preferably Scottish. Among these vivid memories are poignant details: the twins suffer a prolonged identity crisis; "Cappy", their arthritic father, flings clothes found on the bathroom floor out of the window, rages if his boiled eggs aren't right, and petulantly shouts at Mamma, "Why don't you manage me?"

In addition, disasters regularly befell animals. But everything was grist to the mill for these authors, whose first novel was a joint production, written on a discarded typewriter which had no letter 'r'.

What makes this book a sociological gem is the ethos it evokes. Owing chiefly to Nana, an old-style nanny who

kept children strapped in their high chairs until the porridge was finished, the Pullett-Thompsons never whined, ate what they were given and walked miles without complaint. There seem to have been none of the messy compromises which parents and children make today for the sake of sanity. Emotional problems, writes Diana, were never discussed in the family, and "Don't be personal" was a reprimand we took seriously. Their Mamma called alien opinions "Claptrap", and if someone tried to excuse delinquent behaviour on the grounds of an unhappy childhood, she would offer a mocking, "Glands".

Mixed in with this stiff-upper-lip attitude was a degree of eccentricity. "You were very peculiar", recollected a woman who had gone to school with the twins. It was a relief when formal education was abandoned, and at 14 they began to write and teach riding with Josephine. "We were brought up to be brave, stoical, merry-hearted and physically tough, but not to be especially sensitive to others' feelings," writes Diana. They also said what they thought, mindful of Mamma's frequent cry, "Don't hint". Paraphrasing W. E. Henley, Josephine remarks that their childhood equipped them to become masters of their fate and captains of their souls. That she later ran the English Centre of International PEN with the same toughness, humour and realism which she brought to the riding school only adds to the extraordinary achievements of these intrepid horsewomen.

A tidal wave of such memories will doubtless engulf Britain in the next few months thanks to Simon Garfield's wonderfully evocative book. The index of *The Wrestling* alone is likely to result in the cumulative loss of hundreds of

Sweating with Granny, Kendo and Giant Haystacks

Harry Pearson is still in the grip of a passion for grappling

The Wrestling by Simon Garfield, Faber, £9.99

When I was ten my greatest treat was to be taken to the wrestling at Middlesbrough Town Hall. I would sit in the dress circle between my grandmother and her friend, Millie Whiting, gazing down at the ring and the Breughelian carnage that surrounded it. Girls yelled, old ladies shook their fists; toffees, coins, spit and lit cigarettes flew; every once in a while some middle-aged woman emboldened with drink and incensed by repeated illegal shenanigans would leap onto the ring apron and whack Brian "Goldbelt" Maxine or another such villain with her handbag. It was wild, sweaty, vulgar and massively entertaining. And like everything else I seemed to enjoy – cherryade, sherbet flying saucers, DC comics – my parents fretted that it would have a corrosive effect on my well-being.

They needn't have worried. My passion for grappling worc itself out. My grandmother stopped going to the wrestling at Middlesbrough Town Hall. Soon after she was banned even from watching it on television. The official explanation was that it was bad for her heart. Years later my mother would reveal the real reason: granny had taken to yelling so loudly and obscenely whenever Mick McManus appeared on the screen the woman next door had phoned the police.

A tidal wave of such memories will doubtless engulf Britain in the next few months thanks to Simon Garfield's wonderfully evocative book. The index of *The Wrestling* alone is likely to result in the cumulative loss of hundreds of



Mick McManus: inspired obscene yells

HULTON GETTY

manpower hours, as readers run their fingers down it muttering "Logan, Steve! Ah, yes. Came from Bermondsey. Black hair. Protruding eyebrows. Put you in mind of a caveman" and recall noisy nights in theatres, holiday camps and drill halls from Sidmouth to Aberfeldy.

The joy to be had from *The Wrestling* is not merely nostalgic, however. It is a brilliant piece of work which manages the considerable feat of being hilariously funny without slyness or mockery; poignant without resort to sentimentality. It also obliquely reveals a considerable amount more of the true and eccentric nature of Britishness than any number of literary novels or sociological texts.

Using interviews with wrestlers, promoters and fans, with only the occasional, though often telling, authorial intervention, Garfield tells the story of all-in wrestling from its beginnings in Edwardian London, through its heyday in the Sixties and Seventies, to its current pathetic state, where desperate gimmicks such as "The Power Restlin' Rangers" are gradually hunted down and eliminated by the forces of corporate copyright enforcement. The latter not being a tag team, unfortunately.

The Wrestling perfectly captures a fantastical world where erotica and mundanity body-check one another. Former wrestler, Brian Glover, recalls how he began his career as Erik Tanberg, the blond

bomber despite the apparent handicap of being born in Barnsley. We learn that Billy Torontoz wanted to imitate the bullock-carrying feats of Ancient Greek wrestler Milo of Croton, but not being able to lay hands on a bullock, used a sheep instead. There is a whole chapter devoted to the mysterious masked grappler, Kendo Nagasaki.

I saw the cunningly named Nagasaki (Karate Hiroshima doesn't have the same air of menace to it. Judo Bikini-Aioli is way too poncey-sounding) wrestle at the Town Hall early in his career. I was deeply impressed with his entrance in black cape and helmet, brandishing a samurai sword. "He's a Japanese warrior," I told my grandad excitedly when I got back. My grandad had been an amateur boxer and regarded the wrestling in much the same way an aficionado of Wagnerian opera might the music of James Last. "Japanese warrior!" he snorted, "I bet he runs a pic-stall on Stockton Market". *The Wrestling* provides proof that my grandad was right. In substance if not in fact. When artist, Peter Blake observes that Kendo had a finger missing, "In Japan it's the sign of a cult, the equivalent of the Mafia". Promoter Max Crabtree responds: "The Mafia? Kendo used to be an apprentice at Jennings, the horse box makers in Crewe. That's where he got his finger severed".

I could go on and on (and believe me I already have to friends and relations) but I wouldn't want to spoil your fun. Read *The Wrestling*. If you don't enjoy it I'll pull Giant Haystack's beard and

Midnight in the fields of war

Peter Parker celebrates the centenary of Edmund Blunden's birth

Overtures of War: Poems of the First World War by Edmund Blunden, edited by Martin Taylor, Duckworth, £16.95

The centenary of Edmund Blunden's birth on 1 November, 1896 was marked this month by a small gathering in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey. In the presence of Blunden's widow, Claire, and other members of his family, as well as friends and admirers from as far afield as America and Japan, his biographer, Barry Webb, spoke of a long life overshadowed by two years' service as a subaltern on the Western Front. Unlike many of his contemporaries, Blunden survived the war, but he never quite escaped it. "My experiences in the First World War have haunted me all my life," he wrote in 1973, the year before his death, "and for many days I have, it seemed, lived in that world rather than this."

Blunden's prolonged involvement with that world is evident from Martin Taylor's exemplary centenary edition of his war poetry. Since to some extent Blunden never stopped being a "war poet", Taylor has gathered poems from the whole of his career and arranged them chronologically, starting with "October 1914", written while he was a schoolboy at Christ's Hospital, and ending with "Ancre Sunshine", written on a return to the battlefields in February, 1966. His selection consequently gives the reader a real sense of the enduring legacy of the war in Blunden's life, and the way in which the poet used his gradually receding but still vivid memories. Some of the later poems are explicitly about the war, others, such as the beautiful, Wordsworthian "The Midnight Skaters", simply but effectively borrow war's vocabulary.

The book is doubly welcome since until now the only available edition of Blunden's poetry has been a small selected volume. It should be admitted at once that a selection is all one really needs of Blunden's poetry. He was extremely prolific (an early "selected" volume, published in 1930, included 300 poems), and could turn his hand to almost any subject – including "the Eighth Congress of the International Society of Blood Transfusion". Inevitably, not all of this poetry is of the highest quality. Even this volume, which collects around 170 poems, contains some duds, but that is not really the point. As Taylor comments of one early verse: "Although not a good poem – Blunden never reprinted it – it is a revealing one". It is the inclusiveness of this volume, and Taylor's searching introduction to it, that give it its particular value.

Although Blunden wrote some of the best known and most enduring poems of the war – "Vlamertinghe: Passing the Chateau", "The Zonnebeke Road", "Concert Party: Busseboom", "Trench Nomenclature" – his work is rather old-fashioned, true to its beginnings in the pastoral tradition. The poetry of such contemporaries as Owen and Sassoon was transformed utterly by the war, but Blunden merely adapted his verse, remaining (as he



Edmund Blunden: "haunted all his life by his experiences in the First World War"

HUTTON GETTY

famously put it) "a harmless young shepherd in a soldier's coat." As Taylor observes: "The understated style he had developed for his pastoral poetry took on a more ironic tone and perspective, but he was not seduced into an explicitness or savagery he could not have sustained." Except for the occasional shocking image, violence in Blunden's poetry is concentrated upon landscape rather than flesh.

Part of the reason for this is that the majority of Blunden's war poems were written after he had retired from active service. All those he wrote in the summer of 1917, during which he saw action at Passchendaele, were "lost in the mud", and only 25 of the poems in this volume were composed at the front. Taylor

suggests that at least half the poems printed as a "Supplement" to Blunden's *Overtures of War* were written at the same time and in the same place as the memoir: in 1924, in a hotel room in Tokyo. These poems are, however, particular and refer to locations and incidents connected with Blunden's war service. His identifying annotations (made in 1929 and 1934) have been included in Taylor's edition, along with an essay from 1934 which gives details of the various battles in which his regiment (the 11th Royal Sussex or First Southdowns, appropriately nicknamed "Lowther's Lambs") was involved.

Martin Taylor was working on this edition right up to his death in June at the age of just 39, and he oversaw its final stages from

a hospital bed. He had spent most of his working life in the Department of Books at the Imperial War Museum and, with his wide knowledge of the period and his meticulous attention to detail, he was the ideal choice as editor. The book now stands as a fitting memorial to both its author and its editor.

It is wholly appropriate that the sense of continuity which characterised Blunden's career should have been echoed in the celebration at Westminster Abbey, where poems from this collection were read by Taylor's partner, the actor David Gudge, and Jill Balcon, the widow of C. Day Lewis, whose own generation of writers owed so much to Blunden's.

Watching Wally die

Michael Arditti is moved by a study of love and loss

Heaven's Coast by Mark Doty, Cape, £16.99

Contrary to popular belief, it is not only Jack and Jill who dream of a gentle retirement as Doty and Joan. Jack and Bill share this vision. The difference is that premature senility rather than benign old age is the fate of many gay men in the age of Aids.

The particular Jack and Bill in question are Mark Doty and Wally Roberts. In 1989, eight years into their relationship, they take an HIV test. Wally comes back positive; Mark's negative. But so close is their bond that, as Doty movingly writes: "I remember thinking it didn't matter which of us it was, that his news was mine."

The date of the diagnosis is as marked in their lives as a shift from BC to AD. All at once, an all too familiar story is played out as Wally's health starts to fail. This is the stuff of many contemporary memoirs, but the difference here is that Doty is the award-winning poet of *My Alexandria* and *Atlantis*, and *Heaven's Coast* is as much a book of metaphor as of medical fact.

Doty quotes Moner's admission that, as his wife Camille lay on her deathbed, he found himself "without being able to help it, in a study of my beloved wife's face, systematically noting the colours." He himself is impelled by a similar instinct to describe the processes of Wally's decline. His love for his partner radiates so strongly from the prose that, even when he is dealing with the most graphic details of incontinence, the effect is poignant rather than sordid.

As in his poetry, Doty is able to invest the most mundane moment with a wealth of meaning. He intersperses his account of the four years between Wally's diagnosis and death with memories of an earlier, happier life. He returns to the apartment block in Boston where they lodged; although that too becomes tinged with sadness as, like the

rooming-house in Tennessee Williams's *Winter Carre*, it fills with ghosts: Bobby, his lover's ex-lover; Doug, his lover's brother's lover; David, his lover's ex-lover's lover. The litany of deaths reveals the fragile interlacing of their lives.

Unlike Wally who is spared the indignity of opportunistic infections and hospital admissions and allowed to die at home, uther of Doty's friends are thrown onto the mercy of doctors. He visits one in a state hospital Aids ward which has "a quality in the air that bus terminals have". From there, it is but a short step to the memorial service with its peculiarly American blend of the grandiloquent and the grotesque. But, in case he should assume that AIDS has a monopoly on his friends' deaths, further intimations of mortality occur as two of his closest women friends die in separate car accidents.

The most vivid passages of the book are those which deal with Wally's death. Although every physical lapse is recorded, Doty does not dwell on the flesh but rather strips it away to reach to a deeper truth. He repeatedly stresses the paradox that Wally's bodily decline only serves to make him more himself. His face becomes "pure self" as "self-consciousness, doubt, circumstance, even history" disappear. This transfiguring experience is most manifest at the moment of death, when he feels "a shift in the quality of being from the ordinary life of the room."

In describing the aftermath of Wally's death, Doty's prose becomes numinous. Although he does not adhere to any religious system, he undergoes a deep spiritual rebirth. His honesty about his own reactions, is immensely heartening. This wise, beautifully written book is recommended for its profound insight into the nature of both love and loss.

By Jingo with Grace, Basho and other literary warriors

Geoff Nuttall is pleasantly surprised by a new anthology of war poetry

The Faber Book of War Poetry edited by Kenneth Baker, Faber, £20

I must confess that this anthology won a small victory for itself as soon as I opened its pages. I had assumed that there would be a heavy emphasis on the First World War poets because "war poetry" as a term has become almost synonymous with their work. Then, I assumed, there would be Henry Reed, Keith Douglas, Sidney Keyes and so on from the Second World War. Modernist poets, I assumed, would be, as usual, excluded. I was quite wrong.

First I looked for Dylan Thomas's "Refusal To Mourn". It was there. Then I looked for something from David Jones and was delighted to find a short extract from "In Parenthesis" about rats. Thirdly I looked for Bunting and found a fine piece of sea music from

Briggflats about a Gaelic battlefield on Stainmore. W.S. Graham had a long poem, "The Conscript Goes", and a short poem about a homecoming amputee. Pound was there with a translation from the ancient Chinese poet Basho. Jorge Luis Borges had a poem about a Briton and (I assume) an Argentinian, of similar loves and interests, killing one another. There was Carl Sandburg, Guillaume Apollinaire and even a surrealist, Louis Aragon.

Humbled by the nice surprise, I read on to find oddities I would not have known about, never mind expected. Grace Paley, well-known for her terse, wry stories of post-Sixties New York, contributes a "found" poem consisting entirely of the loss-statistics of a Vietnamese village. I have long been an admirer

of Robert Garioch but I didn't know his war poetry. It was good to find it here and interesting to note how, alongside Hamish Henderson, Sorley MacLean, W.S. Graham and the great McDiarmid, he demonstrates how well-suited the Scottish voice is when it comes to dealing with the ironies and dislocation of war. Emily Dickinson was not known to me as a war poet. Neither was Dorothy Parker, while Edgar Wallace was not known to me as a poet at all but here are three dynamic stanzas about a hospital tent adroitly juxtaposed with Walt Whitman on the same subject.

There are omissions. August Stramm's onomatopoeic squibs should be here. One short excerpt from "In Parenthesis" is not enough from the finest long poem

about war to have appeared in this century of terrible wars. Louis MacNeice is represented only by "Streets Of Laredo". He penned stronger stuff in those perilous years. There are poems of war-mongering from Arabic, Oriental and Ancient Greek cultures so maybe a Hutu war chant might have been dug out. There is nothing from the American Indian war-rrior-culture. And, apart from the Borges piece, where the location is not specified, the Falklands debate seems not to have been inspirational.

But for all that the net is wide. It makes it possible to see that war enables poets, and, indeed, artists in general, to avoid the tentative and the moderated, to realise that the best work is done at a

stroke with total subjective certainty because there is no time for postponement. It is also possible to see that the verse collected here falls into four main categories – Folk, Bombast, Heroic and Undeceived. The folk material is well represented. There is the superb ballad, Arthur McBride, and a whole bunch of bawdy songs culled from those collected by Martin Page.

Bombast comes by the yard and there's never a shortage, least of all here. These are the recruiting songs, the patriotic pop-anthems and the victory-celebration pieces. The original "By Jingo" lyric is included. There's a lot of Kipling but I wouldn't put him in this category. His is the rattle of a different drum.

The heroic poetry here is predominantly ancient – long extracts from *The Iliad*, from Hebrew and Islamic texts. Christopher Logue's free "accounts" of the books of *The Iliad* achieve a fresh crispness that the close translations of George Chapman are denied. Something has gone from the human make-up since this work was written and probably a good thing too.

The real surgical knife of art goes into the rotten hulk of war in the undeceived work of the 20th century, starting with Wilfred Owen. Siegfried Sassoon and all the hurt boys who suffered the helplessness of the Somme and saw the vile wastage. There is superb and uncompromising work from the Second World War and the Vietnam War.

Kenneth Baker doesn't order his book into the categories listed above. His anthology is divided according to subject matter, from *Dulce Et Decorum Est* through *The Patriotic Imperative*, *Off To The Wars*, *Martial Music*, *Recruiting and Remembrance* and *Peace*; 66 sections in all. While this makes for variety it also seems to imply a distanced attitude to the subject, a sort of literary Imperial War Museum whose curator assumes that war is here to stay and that these are its many remarkable faces, a display created by a man who neither rattles swords nor kisses doves; but then, perhaps an editor may bear some psychological disadvantages when you recall under whom he served.

Paperbacks

By Christopher Hirst and Lucasta Miller

The Alan Coren Omnibus (Routledge, £12.99) Expect no will-o'-the-wisp whims from the outstanding humorist of the day. Staggeringly inventive, Coren generates pungent, heavy-duty chorales. Comparisons with the great Perelman are not far out, but Coren is ruder and has better punch-lines. This haul of 72 gems from 35 years has a dangerously high laugh-out-loud quotient, exemplified by Highgrove vegetables ruminating on Prince Charles ("One of nature's gentlemen", said the sprout. "You'd never think the bastard was a vegetarian") and an Aussie Oedipus ("I've only gone and married me flaming mummy"). But why are they undated? This is social history hidden in the guise of a gag.

The Body Emblazoned by Jonathan Sawday (Routledge, £12.99) Under the punning title –

"blazon" also meant to hack apart in Elizabethan England – Sawday has written a dazzling, scholarly work about the dark Renaissance obsession with dissection. He reveals the parallels between Donne's eroticism ("License my roving hands...") and early anatomical works in which the surgeon is portrayed giving "a gesture of ownership." Female bodies were particularly sought after in order to probe "the rebellious nature of womankind." From these gory eviscerations came the first recognition of "selfhood." The metaphor of dissection was central to our greatest literary era. Sawday's disturbing, revelatory work is a triumph.

Boychiks in the Hood by Robert Eisenberg (Quartet, £9.00) While secular Jews continue to assimilate, the ultra-orthodox Hasidim are thriving. In a

century's time, they may be the only significant Jewish communities outside Israel. This snappy tour (by a secular Californian Jew) of fundamentalist communities from Brooklyn to Belgium reveals them to be far more approachable and buoyant than their austere appearance suggests. From the wealthy Hasidim of Los Angeles, he moves to the tough remnants of Polish Jewry ("the human embodiments of beef jerky") and, finally, Gateshead, the "intellectual solar plexus" of United Kingdom orthodoxy. Funny, if occasionally aggravating, Eisenberg is an engaging guide.

Granta 5: Childhood (£7.99) The latest number of the book-length literary magazine is devoted to the subject of childhood and parenting. Thirteen writers and a photographer provide an excellent mix of



Dissected figure from Vesalius, 'De Humani Corporis Fabrica', 1543 FROM THE BODY ENBLAZONED

school. On the fiction side, an extract from a forthcoming novel by Jayne Anne Phillips whets the appetite with its raw, uncompromising exploration of motherhood and birth.

Mr Ives' Christmas by Oscar Hijuelos (Bloomsbury £5.99) Unbearably sad, movingly understated novel set in New York. The hero is an advertising executive whose modest ambition is to lead a happy and stable family life. When his teenage son is murdered in particularly meaningless circumstances by a poor young Puerto Rican, the bereaved father reveals a capacity for forgiveness and a moral strength which are anything but ordinary. Don't be put off by the fact that the central character is so uncomplicatedly good – there's nothing gratuitously sentimental about this parable of grief, loss and atonement.

THE INDEPENDENT

Win a Pioneer CD Recorder

Pioneer's award-winning PDR-05 might look like a state-of-the-art CD player for a hi-fi system, but it's much more than that: it's the world's first consumer CD Recorder! Using special CD-R blank discs which cost £7.95, you can make your own 60 minute CD's which will play on any CD player... making compilations from LP's, cassettes, digital tapes and of course other CD's too. We're giving you the chance to win one of these superb Pioneer PDR-05 CD players plus ten blank discs – a total of £1379. To enter, simply dial the

PIONEER
The Art of Entertainment

For information and brochure call **0800 480 480**

number below, answer the two questions on line and leave your details.

Call 0891 111 310

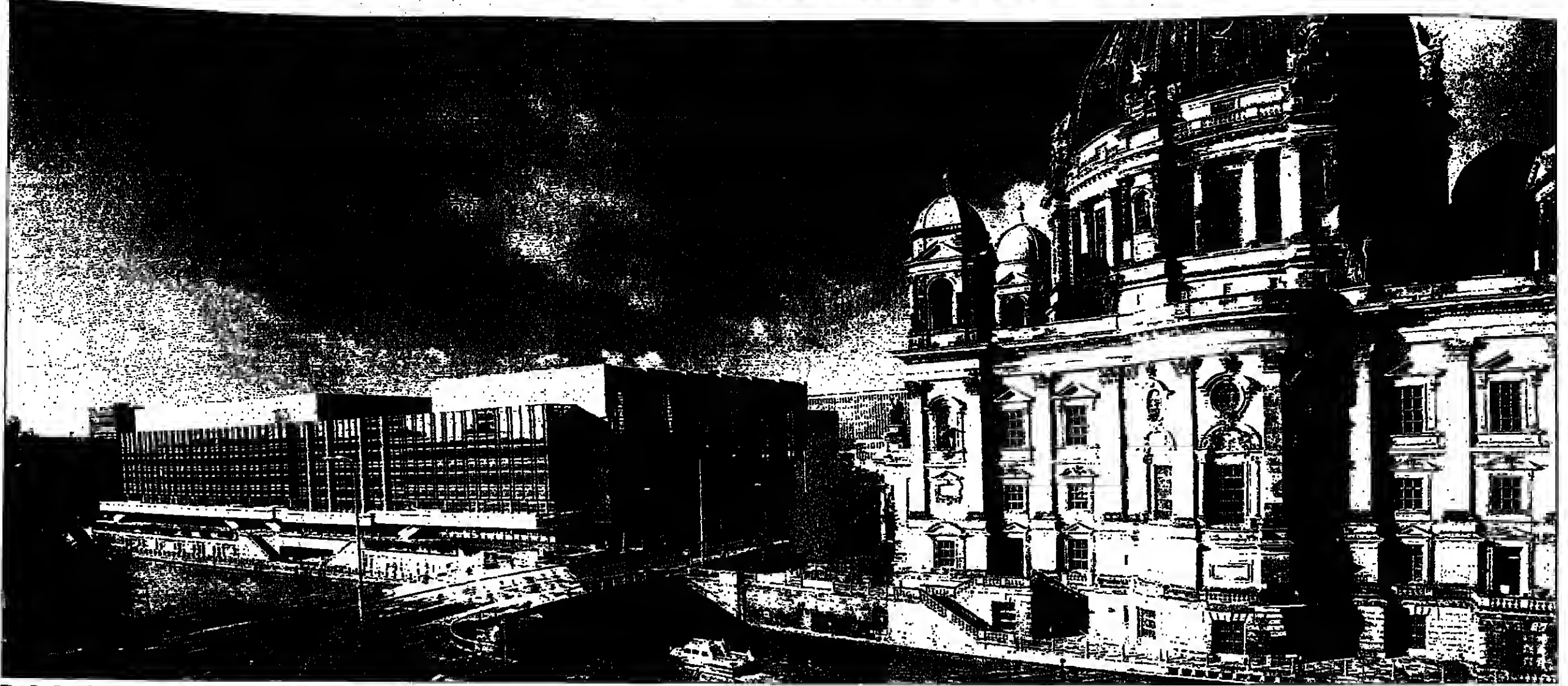
Call cost 50p/min daytime and 45p/min at all other times. Winner picked at random after lines close 17 November, 96. Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final. The recording and playback of certain material may only be possible by permission. Please refer to the Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988.

كتاب الامل

15 من الامن

travel & outdoors

Eccentric outings:
the Keith Harding
musical museum...11
Fresh air forays:
a walk on Exmoor...17



The Berliner Dom (cathedral) stand beside the old DDR parliament building

PHOTOGRAPH: BRIAN HARRIS

Back to the wall

Reunified Berlin is making heroic efforts to come to terms with its history. By Simon Calder

The majestic movie *Wings of Desire* is a tender portrait of humanity transcending the evils of a divided Berlin. Wim Wenders' 1987 angelic fantasy seizes the spirit and urges you to see and feel the place for yourself. But when you arrive in the now united city the search for its soul takes some baffling twists.

The world changed on *Freiheit Nacht* (Freedom Night), 9 November 1989, when the crumbling East German state removed the vicious travel restrictions to the West that had kept the people prisoners of their ideology for 28 years. The announcement was hurried in the news bulletin after an item respectfully heralding the Fourth Party Conference of the ruling SED - Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

Considering that the child christened Freedom was seven years old last Saturday, there was little by way of birthday celebrations. Indeed, the child is by now unwanted - at least by some. "I would like to see the child if we were still separate," a West Berliner told me. "We are tired of paying for all the mistakes of Communism."

"It would be better if we were still separate," an East Berliner insisted. "We had safe jobs, cheap housing and good hospitals." This week, unemployment in Germany hit four million.

As a study in how humanity so readily adapts to new circumstances, Berlin is prime research material. While the city at the heart of Europe recovers from its bypass operation, you must expect some surprises. Walking north along Friedrichstrasse, just as I had done early in 1989, you find the way blocked - just as in 1989. This time, the obstruction

isn't because you are approaching the door between two worlds. It is because someone is building the Checkpoint Charlie Business Centre on the grave of the DDR.

So you have to take a wide detour, across what was no-man's-land, before getting into step again on Friedrichstrasse. But at least the labourers don't take DM25 from you, fill your passport with an obliteration of arcane Gothic characters and - in a cold, heavy sweat - make you believe you have transgressed various articles of the East German Constitution. No: they carry on building.

The wound that the wall created is being painstakingly stitched back together. Accordingly, the latest tourist attraction is the biggest building site in Europe.

In Berlin, the Info Box is not the travel information section at the end of this story; it is a bright red cube on stilts that presides like a conductor over the massed ranks of tower cranes busily building their Potsdamer Platz.

While the cranes duck and delve into the foundations of Berlin, visitors to the Info Box may take a trip through four dimensions. Three physical dimensions are created by a succession of virtual reality screens which take you down the time line to 31 December 1999 - when the Sony Centre at the heart of the new development is due to open. As this electronic magic carpet whizzes you around, from the Filmhaus to the Mediathek, you begin to see its resonances between the vast, intimidating, canopied hall of the new venture and the architecture of the Third Reich.

Much of the administrative infrastructure that enabled Adolf Hitler's regime to terrorise the world has vanished beneath Allied bombs or German bulldozers. The Führer's bunker lies beneath a car park, with footballing youngsters unaware of the horrors that were perpetrated beneath their nimble feet. The headquarters of the Gestapo and SS survived the war, but were flattened shortly afterwards - though only as far as the ground floor. The foundations, and the dungeons where victims of the secret police were tortured, have survived. Some of these ruins lie exposed in the Prinz-Albrecht-Terrain, named after the Prussian prince who built a palace on the site, later commandeered by the SS. Nowadays this blank space seems a peculiarly rural flourish so close to the heart of a modern, harsh city. But what decent building could possibly be constructed on the territory of terror?

About the only possible answer is the diminutive hut that now occupies one corner of this forlorn field. The Topography of Terror is an exhibition hall: here, the horrors invoked by Heinrich Himmler and his fellow "armchair killers", plus the Gestapo who took a vicious hands-on approach to their victims, are portrayed by silent testimony of audiovisual words and grainy pictures, set against the unforgiving prison walls.

Berliners are confronted constantly by their past. Up to 1945, millions were killed by a programme of Fascism directed from Berlin. After 1945, the city was divided by the conquering powers who then fought their proxy battles in the negotiating chamber, where frontiers were carved arbitrarily

through communities, streets and lives. Just as the whole of Germany was split into American, British, French and Soviet sectors, so Berlin was drawn and quartered on military maps. The Western powers lumped their zones together and built a glossy new city from the ashes - though well away from the original centre (imagine a divided London re-establishing itself around the Brent Cross area, and you get the idea). Not much in the way of tourist attractions, but plenty of space for shiny shops. The East became Berlin, *Hauptstadt der DDR* - capital of the German Democratic Republic. Ossified (no pun intended) for 40 years, it was Middle Europe's most atmospheric city - because, and in spite of, the ludicrous bureaucracy you had to tangle with before being begrudgingly admitted.

One effect of what was cynically termed the anti-Fascist protection barrier was to keep the heart of Europe in suspended animation. The trick the people have accomplished is to breathe new life into the old city, while stopping short of killing it with capitalism.

Now, you can amble through the mix of heroic and horrid architecture. Every now and again you catch a whiff of harsh tobacco smoke and rougher schnapps from a café doorway, and are reassured that if the person opposite wants to shop in the Kurfürstendamm, all she need do is keep walking straight through the Brandenburg Gate.

Not that many people these days care to venture to West Berlin's main shopping street. It seems bland, almost tawdry, compared with the grace of the avenues in the East. Unter den Linden, the main

thoroughfare leads one way to Paris, and the other to Moscow, and has picked up affections of scale from both.

Ranged along this boulevard are masterpieces like the state opera house and the cathedral - plus a risible relic of communism. Not the gigantic bronze statue of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels - though the comic duo look alarmingly pleased with themselves as they survey the surroundings - but the ludicrous Television Tower, a needle sticking into space which resembles something you might find in an over-the-top cocktail. The bulge near the top is not maraschino cherry, but a café designed to permit East Germans to peer down upon their erstwhile fellow citizens in the West. Nowadays it just looks silly and vulnerable. Perhaps a new use will be found for it, in the way that other oddments of a tortured

civic history have been adapted. Take the Deutsche Dom, (German Cathedral), that marks the centre of the 19th-century city. Like much of Berlin, it was devastated by Allied bombing in 1945. The cathedral has just reopened as a civic museum, tracing the often terrible history of Berlin over the past 150 years. Visitors and residents step into a cylinder of history that wraps itself around the coarse red-brick interior of the church in a virtuous spiral. The twisted roots of fascism are on permanent show - confronting the past just as the Info Box lets you look into the future at Potsdamer Platz. The crowning moment of the exhibition is simple: two television sets, replaying endlessly the bulletins of 9 November 1989. On the Eastern set, a po-faced sermon gives no acknowledgement

continued on page 10

Berlin essentials

Getting there: KLM (0181-750 9000) is offering a fare of £141.80 including tax, travelling from airports in the London area via Amsterdam to Tegel airport in Berlin. Flights from other UK airports are available for slightly higher fares.

Getting around: On Berlin's excellent public transport system the basic fare is DM 3.90 (£1.60), allowing two hours of travel on the S-Bahn (suburban railway), U-Bahn (Underground railway), buses and trams. The Welcome Card (24 hours

of unlimited travel and discounts on attractions) costs DM 16 (£6.40). Better still is the DM 20 (£8) family card, allowing 24 hours of travel for two adults and up to three children.

Getting advice: The German National Tourist Office's UK bureau is at 65 Curzon Street, London W1Y 8NE (0171-493 0080), but it opens only 12 noon to 5pm, Monday-Friday. You can order brochures on a premium-rate number, 0891 600102. The *Odyssey Illustrated Guide to Berlin* by Gordon McLachlan (£11.95) is a well-researched and entertaining guide.

Cologne

from

£99 return

Madrid

from

£109 return

Singapore

from

£399 return

Call now or see your travel agent. All fares listed are return from London. All fares may be subject to limited availability and travel periods. Passenger taxes excluded. For details and conditions see ITV Teletext page 380, your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop.

For these and many other World Offers call: 0345 222111

Book by 27th November '96.

WORLD OFFERS
BRITISH AIRWAYS
The world's favourite airline

continued from page 9

ment that the world has just turned upside down. Meanwhile, on the Western screen, the ARD newsreader cannot conceal his delight as he does his stumpling best to read the autocue as a broad smile keeps encroaching, with the unmistakable subliminal message that "As soon as I've finished my shift, I'm off to join the party at the Brandenburg Gate."

Tonight, though, they're not going to party like it's 1989. A trawl through the listings of *Zitty* magazine, between the columns of Luste & Liebe and Fetische-Fantasy classifieds, revealed a paucity of celebration. The seven-year itch was being scratched only at the Volksbühne, a triumphant emporium on Rosa-Luxemburg Platz. All the trendy things from East and West meet here, either in the Red or the Green salon. Each venue is comfortably retro – an easy enough image to maintain when all your soft furnishings are made in the DDR and therefore look as though they came from the Co-op, circa 1960.

Here you are on the fringe of the Prenzlauer Berg, the antidote to numerous Soviet incursions on the fabric of the city. Prim 19th-century tenements look as tidily bourgeois as ever they did, while the street level has witnessed an explosion of chic cafés. In a decade, this neighbourhood will help Berlin reach the top of the league of genteel decadence once again.

Vitality is being breathed back into the synagogues, too. Prenzlauer Berg was the core of the Jewish community until the dreadful Kristallnacht on 9 November 1938, when 23 synagogues were wrecked by the Nazis, along with countless Jewish properties. The old Jewish cemetery and new synagogue are now slowly being restored.

At last, I shall mention it: the Wall. The casual weekend visitor to Berlin need never know it ever existed, so effective has been the civic surgery. Almost every concrete inch of the 103-mile wall has been removed, sold off to souvenir hunters or reduced to rubble to build foundations for a new city. Only in a subdued suburb a few miles north of the Brandenburg Gate has *Die Mauer* – the most notorious symbol of the cold war – been remembered. The Mauerpark is a gentle swathe of green that nuzzles against the still-grafted section of wall. Here, a woman's hand has become everyone's playground. Giant, grown-up swings allow you to rise high enough to see over the wall and to reconcile the two halves of the city beneath a sky full of heinen stars. As you swing ever higher, simple harmonic motion replaces the weariness with a sense of joyful liberation. As each swoop lifts you still higher, you feel like an extra in the next Wim Wenders film.

I know what to call it, too: *Swings of Desire*.

To Berlin by Jaguar, Audi, Nissan

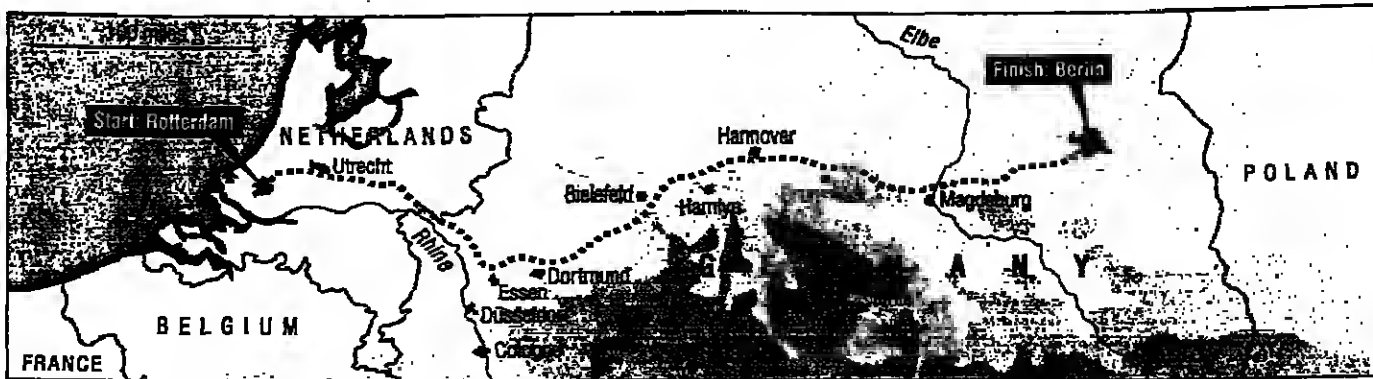
On 12 October readers were invited to enter a competition to join The Independent's travel editor on a trip to east Germany. The method of transport: hitchhiking. Simon Calder and the winner, Alison Clements, report on their journey

The weather forecaster had set the tone for the weekend early on Friday morning: "It's been the coldest night of the winter so far". The sparkle danced from a few fragments of frost, and I shivered. This was to be a long, cold day.

As Leonard Cohen nearly sang, it looked easy on paper: first, we take Rotterdam, then we take Berlin. We had planned a train-train ordeal to the furthest east station in Holland. But the strange economics of international travel meant that it was cheaper to hop by air to Rotterdam, taking in a hot breakfast en route. Hitch-hikers must suspend all normal human functions, such as eating, so this was an asset.

You can trace a straight line from Europe's busiest port due east through Osnabrück and Hannover to Berlin, 430 miles of autobahn. Now all we needed was a lift.

Newcomers can bring a fresh approach to an activity. Alison



eschewed several of the established conventions of hitch-hiking. I had not previously encountered the practice of walking down the middle of the central reservation while thumbing a ride, nor dancing by the roadside. Nor had I thought of holding the destination board at such an angle that most motorists could not read it until they had driven past. This "tease"

certainly intrigued some drivers.

A three-hour wait, like the one outside Utrecht, can serve to focus on supposed deficiencies. Alison's declaration "I should have brought my daughter instead – everyone would stop for her" wasn't the sort of thing to keep the spirits up. Morale was flagging; after all, in four hours we had covered just 40 miles. So a lift in a

turbo-charged Audi was just what the hitchhiking spin-doctor ordered. Hardmut came round the corner a moment after I had replaced the two failed hitchhiking signs "Berlin bitte" and "Hengelo or Arnhem" with one simply reading "Germany please". The implication – that we were (a) British and (b) desperate – was not lost on him. He could help with a 100-mile hop

into Germany. As we crossed the border, Hardmut put his foot down and we began hurtling east at 200kph. So the last time we were being replenished.

He dropped us on the edge of the Ruhr, where Dortmund runs into Essen and hitchhikers run into trouble. Berlin was 300 miles beyond, and the sun was setting fast. Being

stuck all night at this breeze-blown Rastplatz seemed inevitable. What we needed was a Berliner delivering a brand-new Nissan to a customer, who could converse elegantly in English, and take us straight to the heart of Berlin. The red-and-white numberplate signifying a trade driver pulled up. Hello, Ralf.

In contrast with the 12-hour, three-lift race across Europe, the return journey involved seven hops and took two hours longer. It also cost £20. It was by train.

On the journey back I defended the concept of hitch-hiking against some intensive lobbying from Alison. She thought the competition prize should have been a flight to Berlin.

"I didn't mind it, but I wouldn't let my daughters do it," Alison's daughters, Sarah and Emma, are 23 and 26 years old respectively.

SC

'One advantage of hitch-hiking is meeting interesting people ... but I'd rather have spent the time in Berlin'

Within an hour of leaving Rotterdam Airport we had flagged down our first knight in shining paintwork. Between describing his various homes and the rest of his yacht, Franz outlined his policy on hitch-hiking. He always picked people up, he said, to repay the lifts he had received as a student. Indicating the sumptuous leather upholstery of his Jaguar, he said: "I think it is also nice for them to ride in such a car". You bet it was. However, he dropped us on the wrong side of Utrecht, where we had our longest wait for a lift. Lift two also featured a quality car, this time an Audi driven by German businessman Hardmut. It was beginning to warm to the idea of hitch-hiking. I hadn't faucied

riding in a lorry driver's cab, though I had taken the precaution of packing a few Yorkie bars. Lift three was a hitch-hiker's dream. Hardmut had dropped us off in the middle of nowhere, and the temperature was dropping by the second. Then Ralf stopped and offered to take us all the way to Berlin. He even dropped us at a handy S-Bahn station. Thirteen hours after my one breakfast and Simon's two, we were sampling a cheap tourist menu at a Berlin restaurant.

Hitch-hiking was an interesting and occasionally hair-raising experience. I had to close my eyes when Hardmut's speedo topped 200km. Second-hand car dealer Ralf was delivering a Nissan with almost nothing on the clock; the speedometer seemed mysteri-

ously to have been disconnected. One advantage of hitch-hiking is meeting interesting people. Franz was in heavy-duty removals, transporting anything from reactors to submarines. Hardmut, from the former West Germany, revealed a philosophical approach to the problems which have followed unification. "I think in 30 years no one knows about the DDR. It needs time." Astonishingly, Ralf, from the former East Germany, seemed indifferent to his new-found freedom. "A lot of people want the wall back," he told us. We celebrated the anniversary of the wall coming down, and my birthday, in the company of a jolly little band of people we had met at our hostel. An all-night session was ruled out, as we had to leave

the hostel at 6.30am to catch a train back to Rotterdam. Or more precisely, several trains. A special weekend deal allows up to five people to travel anywhere in Germany for about £14. At the German border we crossed to Hengelo and took another train to Rotterdam and stayed in a youth hostel where the air in the dormitory was heavy with the scent of dope. It was too late for dinner, which would have been the first meal of the day. I ate a packet of crisps.

And the final reckoning? The cost of train tickets on the return leg, plus the flight to Rotterdam, was about the same as a direct flight to Berlin. Hitchhiking and investigating the rail system had saved precisely nothing and cost about 20 hours' travelling time. I'd rather

ever, visit Berlin, perhaps on the 10th anniversary of unification when Germany's new capital should have become a coherent whole city. By then perhaps the supply of pieces of wall, still available in tacky souvenir shops throughout the city, may have dried up. My most pervasive memory of Berlin is a park created in what was no-mao's-land. Alongside a remaining section of the wall, large-scale swings allow adults to soar through the air, untrammelled by the constraints of officialdom. These swings are not for children. "I feel liberated," said Simon, working his legs enthusiastically. "I think that's the point." I told him.

AC

TEL 0171 293 2222

classified • personal

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Independent Hearts

Replies should be addressed to the relevant box number, c/o The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

zygosis the unique meeting
THE PROFESSIONAL PERSON'S INTRODUCTION AGENCY
Personal people often don't meet their ideal partner in their current social circle. That's where Zygosis can help. We are highly selective, operate exclusively on a confidential basis and produce results. We look forward to your call.
LONDON 0171 637 8979
SOUTH EAST 0131 334 5655
NORTH WEST 0161 552 0090
NORTH EAST 0191 361 2254
YORKSHIRE 0113 235 1387
MIDLANDS 01832 43078
SOUTH WEST 01235 885514
SOUTH EAST 01473 611000

DateLine
DateLine is the world's largest, and longest-established Introduction Agency. Our unique and successful formula could easily be put to work for you.
FOR FREE DETAILS WITH NO OBLIGATION WRITE TO: 23 ABBINGTON RD LONDON W8 6AL OR CALL (01869) 324 100
Est. 1966. JARA member. <http://www.dateline.co.uk>

Sara Eden
"A file of grateful letters and a wall full of wedding photographs"
London 0171-499-9626
Windsor 01753-330350
Est. 1988 Member JARA

Connect with all types of women INSTANTLY
The Phone Club
0891 708057
01753 611000

SPEAKEASY
MORE LINES MORE DATES MORE FUN
0839 700 044
Gay men 0839 400 399
Gay women 0839 400 399
0171 915 6070
0171 915 6450
Victoria Television Ltd.
120 Leamington Way, London E14 6JH

GUSTO
The dining club for gay men
0171 336 6507

MUSIC LOVERS
Classical & Baroque
As featured on BBC Radio 3. A unique introduction service. The national way to strike the perfect note with your kind of person. Meet individually or at one of our musical evenings, now including concert outings.
0181 963 8211 (office)
0181 963 8224 (evening)
(evening)

TRYST
TRYST is a nationwide introduction service established for over 15 years. We are highly selective and produce results. We look forward to your call.
0181 963 8211 (office)
0181 963 8224 (evening)
(evening)

Elite
Introductions
NOTES, LISTS, LINES. We have 100's of quality and well educated members, all personally interviewed at home in your local area. Call for free details anyone. ELITE INTRODUCTIONS
0115 937 6104

SIRIUS
The Intelligent Person's Introduction Agency
Call free (24 hrs) on 0800 072 0075 for a free brochure.
CD or Tape with further details.
Descriptions of the first 24 people in your area you may wish to meet.
0171 937 6263

drawing down the moon
"the agency people rave about"
0171 937 6263

JOIN CINELINK
Socialise around Cinema/Arts events in central London
Tel: 0181 800 4822
or send SAE to 138 Lordship Road London N16 0QL

ASSIGNATIONS
Lesley Hudson-Jessop (ex Professional Headhunter)
Home interviews and professional skills lead to tailor made introductions.
M4 CORRIDOR
01225 482905

Are you Single, Successful, Attractive...
Wouldn't you like to be in...
The Dinner Club (Est. '80). The nation's only countryside dining club. We are highly selective and produce results. We look forward to your call.
01225 482905

ATTACHMENT
We are the QUALITY...
01225 482905

Mamas'n'Pappas
Educated ladies who combine career with home and child, professional and executive gentlemen. A definitive clientele for the discerning.
0181-769 6805

PERSONAL
madam, are you ready for L'AFFAIRE
01225 482905

CONGRATULATIONS!!
We are delighted to hear from all the couples who have met and married through INDEPENDENT HEARTS. Wishing you and all our other advertisers every success and happiness for the future.
INDEPENDENT HEARTS

CONGRATULATIONS!!
We are delighted to hear from all the couples who have met and married through INDEPENDENT HEARTS. Wishing you and all our other advertisers every success and happiness for the future.
INDEPENDENT HEARTS

To advertise in this section please call Seema Chaudhry on 0171 293 2347.

Charities
Provides a safe haven for sailors
Life at sea has always put pressure on naval families. By making a donation or leaving a legacy to Royal Sailors' Rests now you can help in providing a 'home from home' and Christian care for sailors and their families. Please send for details of legacy giving, or make your donation to: Royal Sailors' Rests Dept. LD53, FREESTON PT302, 5 St. George's Business Centre FORTSMOUTH PO1 3JY. Telephone No 01707 235522. Registered Charity No. 13748.

INDEPENDENT HEARTS

The Independent Way to Meet New People

By placing an advertisement in the The Independent Hearts section of *The Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday* you will immediately be in contact with over 1.66 million readers.

The cost for your advertisement, published in the first available editions of the Saturday "Weekend" and Sunday "Real Life" sections is just £5.00 per line including V.A.T. (Box No is an additional £10.00, please cross here if you do not require a Box No.).

Simply write your advertisement in the spaces below and fill in the coupon - Minimum 2 lines. (N.B. A character is a letter, a number, a punctuation mark and a space between words)

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Telephone (daytime): _____
Signature: _____

All advertisements must be prepaid. Cheques should be made payable to Newspaper Publishing Plc or debit card.

☐ Access ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Diners Club Card expiry date: _____ Card No: _____

Send all advertisements to: Independent Hearts, The Independent, 19th Floor, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Telephone: 0171 293 2347 Fax: 0171 293 2505. This offer is only open to private advertisers. Trade enquiries are welcome on the above telephone number. *NRS Jan - June '95

NOTICE TO READERS

The Independent cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will.

When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or trusted friend know where you will be.

We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

For some it's the fashion... For Debra Turner it was a nightmare.
You've seen what the treatment for leukaemia can do. Debra will never forget it. She's fought and she's won. But while people like Debra are fighting they need support, and their families need support. Leukaemia CARE lends its caring support in so many ways - befriending, providing limited assistance for hospital visiting, caravan holidays and other related costs. Care for the 31,000 sufferers - many of them so young - and care for those who watch over them.
If you care, help us to care for them.
The Leukaemia CARE Society
14 Knyffisher Court (SBNL), Venny Bridge, Exeter, Devon EX4 8JN
Tel: 01382 464948 Registered Charity 259483

0171 293 2347

Dance to the music of time

The O'Brien family visits the World of Mechanical Music in Gloucestershire

The venue

The World of Mechanical Music is a tiny museum, a single, genteel room crammed with apparently somnre old instruments. But the space is soon filled with an astonishing variety of sounds as the guide brings each object to life - barrel organ, musical box, polyphon, automaton, pianola... This is an eccentric extended family of magnificent music machines.

The collection belongs to Keith Harding and Cliff Burnett, both horologists. Keith is Europe's leading authority on cylinder- and disc-playing musical boxes.

The tour traces the development of mechanical music from 18th-century cylinder boxes to a magnificently mellow Thirties EMG hand-made gramophone. The most prized piece is a Steinway concert piano with a Welte reproducing mechanism that plays exact performances.

The automata are equally entertaining - a lion loses his head to a lion tamer, Joey the clown scrapes a bow across his violin. The collection of clocks is displayed in a small annex which is currently being redecorated.

The visitors

Sarah O'Brien, a ceramics specialist with Sotheby's, and her husband, Charlie, head of 19th-century paintings at Bonham's, took their children, Alice, eight, and George, six.

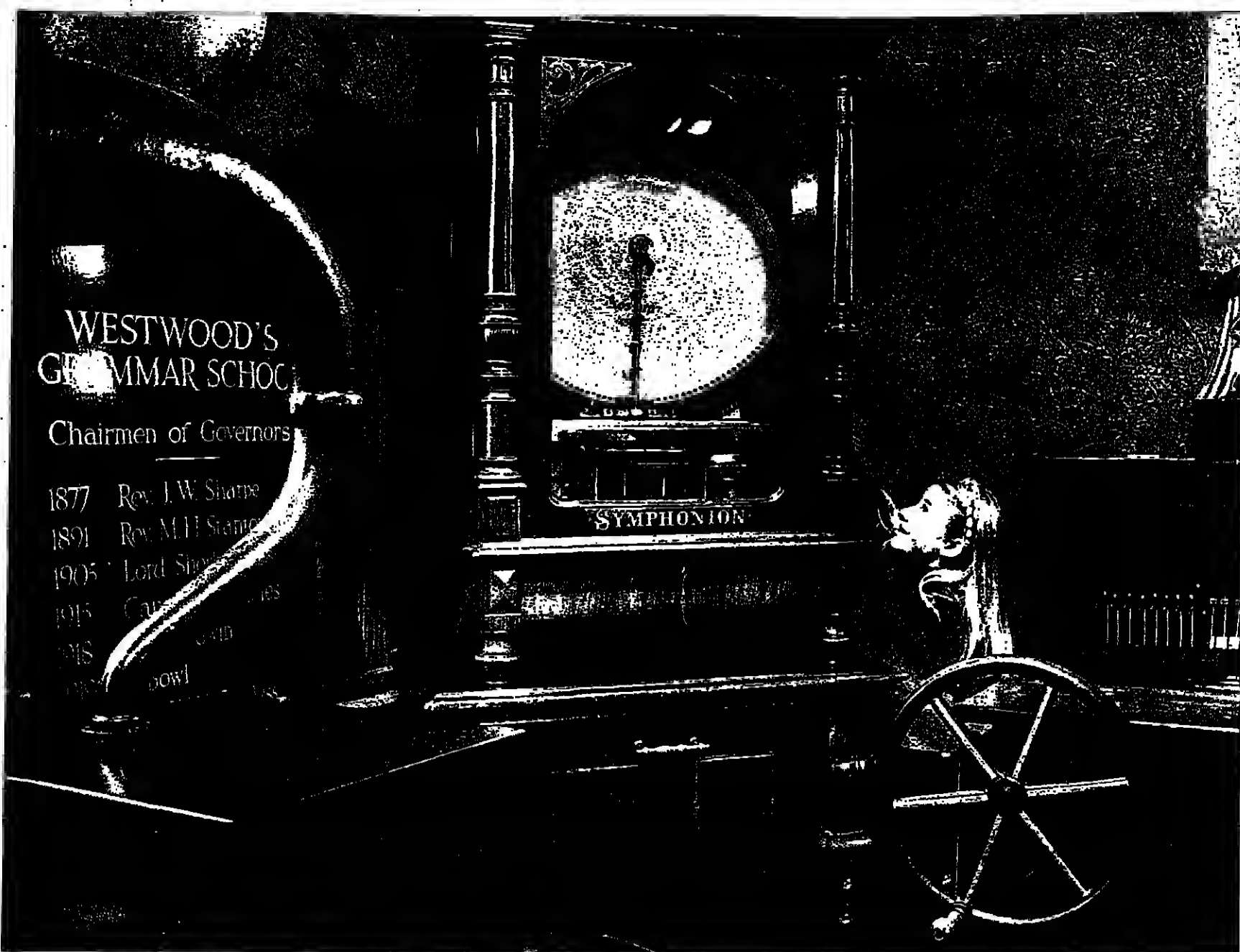
Sarah: There was a really good combination of attractive objects, good music, interesting history and an entertaining guide. I was concerned that Alice and George would get bored being talked to by a guide in one small room, but they loved it.

The music included old favourites like "Rule Britannia", the "Ride of the Valkyries" and tunes by Scott Joplin. I liked the way each instrument was put in its historical context: how many months' salary it would cost to buy, and what room it may have been played in, and when. It was the social history that maintained my interest; the mechanical history lost me. I would have liked a small guide book explaining the basics of how things worked because there was so much to take in.

Charlie: The museum is run by genuine enthusiasts. I was glad the guide showed us the instruments chronologically to give a sense of development from the 18th century to the present.

The Café Orchestra was in its original condition, unrestored and unpolished; just as it would have been sitting in the café with people bumping into it, pouring beer and wine over it.

The Steinway concert piano impressed me most. To be able to sit and hear a concert performance given by the Polish composer Paderewski, long dead, was a real treat. It was quite eerie to see the keys moving on their own, but fascinating to watch.



An eccentric extended family: the World of Mechanical Music

Photograph: John Lawrence

Alice: It was a very small museum but there was lots to see. Most of all I liked the musical boxes. My favourite was a lovely one Queen Victoria gave to an Indian maharaja. It was really big with a huge cylinder in it, lots of shining bells and a singing bird sitting in a sort of forest.

George: The tour was just the right length. I didn't get bored but I did sit down near the end. I understood what the man was saying some of the time, not always, but I enjoyed it. Some of the music made me want to dance. I knew the *William Tell* overture because we sing it at home when we are in a hurry to get to school. I liked the little musical snuff box most of all, with the singing bird in it. When the music stopped he had to go back in really quickly before the lid snapped down.

The deal

Keith Harding's World of Mechanical Music: The Oak House, High Street, Northleach, Gloucestershire (01451 860181); Northleach is just off the A40, between Oxford and Cheltenham. Access: There is a small car park behind the museum. Entrance to the museum is through the shop. Disabled access. Opening times: Daily 10am-6pm, closed Christmas Day. Last tour 5pm. Private

groups of more than 10 people can make evening appointments. Admission: Adults, £5; OAPs and students, £4; children, £2.50; family ticket, £12.50. Shop: Excellent selection of gifts: antique clocks and musical boxes, contemporary automata, cuckoo clocks, brain-teasers. Toilets: The museum toilets show signs of age; use the public toilets in main square.

Catherine Stebbings



something to declare

Picture this

Are you proud of your travel photographs? Would you like to see them on display to the public? If the answer to these two questions is yes then you should enter the *Wanderlust* photo travel competition, sponsored by The Independent and Canon. The winner will receive £1,000 worth of camera equipment and the best 25 entries will be displayed at Destinations '97, to be held in London's Olympia from 6 to 9 February next year.

All entries must be accompanied by an official entry form - which you can get by sending a stamped addressed envelope to *Wanderlust* (Photo Competition), PO Box 1832, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 6YP.

Bargain of the week

The fares war on scheduled services to Spain that has been rumbling all year enters the final straight with a £104 offer from Iberia (0171-830 0011).

The Spanish airline is selling

return tickets at this (tax inclusive) fare from Heathrow to Barcelona or Palma de Mallorca, or from Gatwick to Madrid. You must book at least three days in advance and stay away on a Saturday night.

True or false

Richard Branson wishes you a happy birthday?

True, providing you are flying on a Virgin Atlantic flight on the day (don't forget about the passport check, when any subterfuge will be uncovered) and a friend has tipped off the airline. He or she will have to call the Special Assistance Department on 01293 747691, between two days and two months in advance. The options include an on-board anniversary announcement, a cake, champagne or chocolates - though only the first of these is free.



Visitors' book

Rotterdam youth hostel

Sitting down, chilling out, playing pool and eating Munchies. It's a hard life, but I'll struggle on - Catherine O'Doherty, Limerick.

I didn't know what to expect of Rotterdam, but I certainly wasn't disappointed. My favourite bar is Rotown (at Nieuwe Binnenweg 19); great atmosphere, nice people - David Gunning, London.

Make sure you visit the Dizzy jazz café! - Anon [but quite possibly the proprietor of the café].

Travel: I have seen the moon shine on the other side of the world. I am different now - Mason, USA.

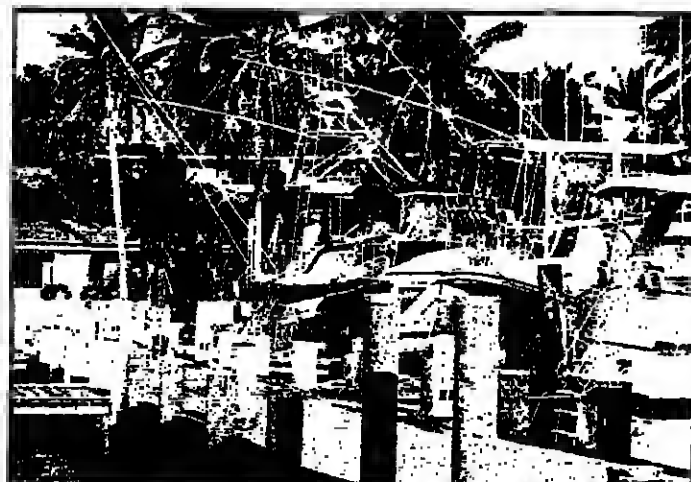
Trouble spots

Caribbean caution

Haiti: Driving in Haiti is a hazardous free-for-all, but some find it exhilarating. The streets are narrow, with many sharp bends. Vehicles swerve unexpectedly to avoid potholes. Cars often don't stop in an accident, so, to avoid paying the high insurance excess, keep a pen and paper handy to take down a number if necessary - *Caribbean Islands Handbook* 1997 (Footprint, £14.99).

Jamaica: the US State Department says "crime is a serious problem in Kingston" and urges visitors to exercise caution if travelling to the Jamaican capital. Since January, there have been more than 750 murders on the island.

Barbados (above): there are fewer hucksters on the main beaches these days, but you will probably be offered the traditional array of services, including hair-braiding, tropical



shirts and African carvings. They can be very persistent (and quite persuasive) when they get going - from *The Southeastern Caribbean* by James Henderson (Cadogan, £9.99).

The Windward Islands: if you hear a hurricane is on the way, find the strongest concrete bunker you can find and shelter

in it with everyone else. If it all goes quiet at the height of the storm, then you are in the eye: batten down the hatches because it will start again in a few minutes - *Discover Dominica* (free tourist guide)

Dominica: avoid walking deserted streets at night. Walk with a companion. Avoid drug pushers - Ibid.

Taxi driver caught taking

Microsoft® AutoRoute Express™ 5.0.

A Special Announcement

An Autumn Visit to Southern Africa

including 6 nights at the 5-star deluxe Meikles Hotel & optional visits to Victoria Falls & Game Park

A week away from £395.00

For seven departures only we shall be operating a special flight at an especially low tariff to the lovely city of Harare, with its fine museums housing the artefacts of David Livingstone. We have a small number of seats available over the period allowing us to make a special offer of six nights in the famous and 5-star deluxe Meikles Hotel.

Besides visiting the many sights in and around Harare there are a host of excursion possibilities to the nearby game reserves and the highland areas such as Leopard's Rock. Excursions can be booked in advance to the tourist areas of the famous Victoria Falls (by air) and the Bailly Vaughn Game Park. Alternatively you may wish to hire a car and explore the country independently.

This is a unique opportunity to visit southern Africa at a fraction of the normal tariff. The price includes return flights from London Gatwick to Harare, transfers and six nights' accommodation. Flights are by non-stop, wide-bodied, scheduled seat configured Boeing 747 aircraft.

THE MEIKLES HOTEL, HARARE

Voted Africa's finest hotel, Meikles is centrally located in Harare. It has a host of public facilities

including a swimming pool, a number of fine restaurants, a coffee shop, travel desk for local excursions and shops. The guest rooms are all air-conditioned with full facilities including TV.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

1996 Tuesdays - per person in a twin
Nov 26/Dec 3, 10/Dec 17, 24/Dec 31/Jan 7, 14/Jan 21, 28/Jan 28
Single room supplement £195

Price includes return airfare, transfers, flights, accommodation at Meikles Hotel. Not included: airport taxes, travel insurance, picnic programme, meals, drinks, car hire, gratuities and a flight to Harare. All prices are subject to change & all bookings accepted subject to the Conditions of Booking, a copy of which is available on request.

0171-6161000

VOYAGES JULES VERNE

21 Dorset Square, London NW1 6GG
Travel Promotions Ltd. 0171 6161000
Internet: <http://www.vjv.co.uk>

Our offices are open for telephone reservations weekdays 9am to 6pm and at weekends 9am to 5pm. For personal call our office hours are 9am to 5pm weekdays only.

Milk float driver records fastest time from Land's End to John O'Groats.

Microsoft® AutoRoute Express™ 5.0.

See The Independent Magazine page 40.

In the wake of the snake

Sue and Peter Gearing go walkabout in the Dreamtime

We emerged from the cool denseness of the jarrah forest to be greeted by Michael and a brew of tea. We could smell the tea, spiced with a handful of gum leaves, as it heated up in a blackened billy. Meanwhile, the smoke from the fire helped to keep the flies at bay. "The gum leaves are traditional," said Michael. "Gives it a bit of a kick."

This was just one interlude on a section of Western Australia's first long-distance trail, the 1,000km Bibbulmun Track, stretching from Perth down to Albany on the Southern Ocean.

The track has been named after the Bibbulmun, a tribe of Aborigines who once inhabited the south-west corner of Western Australia, and we were following a mythical aboriginal snake - the Waigal. Legend has it that when large numbers of the Bibbulmun people fell from grace, the true believers were saved from a great flood when the Creator, in the form of a Waigal, pointed the way to safety. Today, the Waigal is the waymark sign, appearing every 200 metres - so there's little chance of getting lost.

It was safely leading us on a 20km stretch from Hoffman's Mill, near the thriving dairy town of Harvey, south the Stirling Dam.

The billy fitted the Aussie stereotype, and so did Michael, an easy-going farmer who had built his own house from mud bricks and was earning a bit of extra money as our driver, taking us to and from the Bibbulmun track.

But we hadn't been prepared for the Australian bush we encountered - not the scrubby, windblown terrain of so many films, but a lush

variety of trees and vivid native wildflowers along the length of the track.

That first day, we walked through a spectacular forest with stately eucalyptuses rising as high as 40 metres. We found ourselves in a flowering, green world of tea tree, showy bottle brush, green kangaroo paw and grass tree, with its distinctive shaggy topknots.

The sun was starting to dip and the shadows lengthened as we wearily followed the track through an area of wattle where the yellow flowers had withered to a crumbly brown. We were not prepared for the almost primeval sight that met us when we rounded a bend and reached the end waters of the Stirling Dam. There stood stark, skeletal trees, looking as if they were holding their arms outstretched in protest years after their land had been flooded.

Our second walk on the Bibbulmun was further south near the timber town of Pemberton and the start of even mightier forests - those of karri, the third largest tree in the world. We felt insignificant as we followed the well-marked track, with the silver grey trunks of the trees soaring up around us.

The undergrowth is different here. Instead of the tea tree perfume, we enjoyed the scent of Western Australian peppermint and identified a different range of bush shrubs and flowers as well as other kinds of wattle and bottlebrush, orchid-like trigger plants and several yellow-and-red cowslip orchids just coming in bloom in November.

It was here, basking on the banks by the orchids, that we encountered our first snake, a four-foot dugite, one of Western Australia's poisonous reptiles. This sleek specimen merely slithered away into the undergrowth

Beyond the timber town of Pemberton is a country of karri forests and bush shrubs

lying behind a prominent mud castle built by wood ants.

The trail took us by old railway tracks, where, during the logging operations of Twenties, wood-burning engines used to haul massive karri logs to the Pemberton sawmills. The karri are indeed giants and can reach heights of more than 80 metres. On a day off from trekking, we visited one of the most famous karri - the Gloucester Tree, a 60m fire look-out named after a former Governor General of Australia.

One of the attractions of the Bibbulmun is that for the foot-sore, it is not hard to find things to do on one's day off. We refreshed ourselves at one of the well-established wineries. Cullens, where we sat at a scrubbed wooden table sipping fruity wines while the vineyard's friendly mongrel sat under our bench, ever hopeful of being fed.

In reality, however, it was never difficult to respond to the lure of the track, where none of the walking is difficult and there are very few uphill sections.

Steady bushwalking takes you into the

heart of a territory that would have been familiar to the early settlers. They, too, would have walked through the jarrah and the karri forests and would probably have been as impressed as we were by the sight of the wildflowers, kookaburras, brilliant kingfishers, lizards, snakes and wandering emus.

For more information about the Bibbulmun track, contact Jesse Brampton, Project Office, c/o Calm, PO Box 104, COMO, Western Australia (0861 9 334 0265); or the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs 0061 9 457 4757.

Safety: Walkers need to be well equipped. Stretches of the track are far from civilisation and lonely. It's hot in the day but cold at night. Common sense rules apply. Ensure that somebody knows your starting and finishing points and times. Local offices of Calm will help. Climate: Maximum temperatures are 30C from December to March with a year-round minimum rarely below 10C. Rainfall is lightest from November to March (20mm and below) and heaviest from May to August (130mm to 180mm).

PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT HARDING

The Bibbulmun Track

Though the Bibbulmun Track will not be finished until the end of 1997, the idea behind it has been around for more than a quarter of a century. The first length was completed in 1974 and, as part of Australia's Bicentennial Trails Programmes, stretches were realigned in 1988 and the track extended south to Walpole.

Progress, however, has recently been faltering. The man who is now working to put the new track firmly on the map is Jesse Brampton, director of the Bibbulmun project for Western Australia's Department of Conservation and Land Management (Calm).

A bush walker, who has conquered the mighty North American Appalachian Trail, he set out to walk the disused and overgrown Bibbulmun Track in the late Eighties. It left him with a sense of disappointment. "When people go bush walking, they don't want to walk into logging or mining operations; they want to walk in the bush, experience different kinds of terrain and have a sense of adventure."

A chance meeting with Calm gave him the opportunity to do something about it.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

travel • overseas

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Overseas Travel		Greece		Spain		Caribbean		Special Interest Holidays			
RAMBLERS 1997 = REAL HOLIDAYS <i>The brochure you have been waiting for is here!</i> 140 REAL HOLIDAYS - the most mouthwatering selection of holidays imaginable spanning the world. Walking, easy to tough choices in Norway, the Alps, Dolomites, Pyrenees, Spain, Slovenia, France, Italy, Czech, Poland, Portugal and lots more outside Europe too. Treks in Nepal and the Alps. Tough mountain hut trips in Austria. Great exploring holidays, walking and sightseeing throughout Europe, Middle and Far East, S. Africa, N & S America, New Zealand and Australia. A huge choice of REAL holidays. All small escorted parties, tourist class accommodation. Mostly scheduled flights, some holidays to France and Ireland by coach - and all backed by 50 years of experience. Please request a brochure. Ramblers Holidays Box 43, Welwyn Garden, AL8 6PQ Tel: 01707 331133 Fax: 01707 333276 E-mail: ramblers@dnl.pipex.com		SPRING FLOWERS , breathtaking views & empty beaches. Discover Western Crete from 24 villages houses. Pure Crete (0181) 700 0879. ATOL 2757. GRECOFILE/PILOXENIA For the discerning, truly, quietest Greece. (01222) 375993. ATOL 2817 ATG. SIMPLY CRETE 1997 brochure out now. Escape the mainstream and experience the real Crete. Restored country cottages, villas with private pools, quality apartments and family-run hotels. Plus Island Wandering and Special Interest Holidays. 0181 955 5323. ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		TRADITIONAL SPAIN Traditional country houses, villas and apartments in La country-side Spain and Portugal. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143682 QUOTE REF 1001 AND MORE INFO 01993 700600		LONG WEEKEND SOUTHERN SPAIN TORREQUEBRADA HOTEL BENALMADENA £199 01993 700600		THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS Luscious villas with pools and select hotels on secluded Caribbean islands. British Virgin Islands Club For a brochure telephone: (01932) 220477 RICHARD@BRITISHVIRGINISLANDS.CO.UK VISA, MasterCard, Amex, Diners ATOL 19393 ATOL 846 ATG		FORGET THE RAT RACE, TRY THE RHINO COUNT. It's your chance to make a world of difference as a paying volunteer on one of Earthwatch's 130 environmental and cultural projects worldwide. From tracking Black Rhinos in Zimbabwe to saving the rainforest in Cameroon. For more details call 01865 311600. EARTHWATCH EVERYONE'S GOT A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE Registered Charity No. 127417	
Mountain Travel ICELAND High Fells, Glaciers, Volcanoes Tel: 0171 293 2222		Travel Services ANNUAL WORLDWIDE travel insurance covers you for 365 days duration. Includes £1,000,000 medical, plus baggage. Optional extras available. Underwritten at Lloyd's. Only £270 per person. For further details call Marcus Hearn & Co. quoting 1055 Policy on 0171 729 3444.		Italy Traditional farmhouse, villa or apartment in Italy's prettiest regions. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143683 QUOTE REF 1001 AND MORE INFO 01993 700600		Spain CASAS CANTABRICAS. For 1997, broch of cottage holidays in beautiful, unspoiled regions of N. Spain & Portugal Tel (01225) 326721. ATG. ANDALUSIA Holiday cottages in beautiful Andalusian region south of Granada. Walking, touring, bird watching, relaxing. Available winter, spring and long stays. Virginia 0181 2250670. VINTAGE SPAIN. Country houses with pools in unspoiled areas of Castile, Andalusia & Mallorca. 1997 Brochure 01954 281481. ATOL 2787 ATOL 1922 ATG.		Turkey SIMPLY TURKEY 1997 brochure out now. Discover a delightfully different Turkey, away from the mainstream, with our unique range of rural cottages, villas with private pools and friendly hosts. Plus our flexible wandering programme, special interest holidays, guest cruises and island city breaks. Please call 0181 955 5323. ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		Australia & New Zealand SPECIALS FROM MANCHESTER £749 £849 FROM LONDON which includes 2 FREE flights in Australia Departures: 21 Jan - 15 Apr 97 Tel: 01386 40891	
Corsica SIMPLY CORSICA. 1997 brochure out now. Discover the Mediterranean's best-kept secret, an island of glorious beaches and spectacular mountains, unspoiled by mass tourism. Villages with pools, superb cottages, mountain adventures and stylish hotels. Call 0181 955 5323. ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		France Euro Sites LUXURY SELF-DRIVE CAMPING & MOBILE HOME HOLIDAYS FROM £95 FOR UP TO 4 PEOPLE MANY PRICES HEI! PLUS SPECIAL FERRY OFFERS LOW DEPOSIT OF £30 FREE FERRY CROSSING FREE BREAKFAST £20 HOLIDAY VOUCHER CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE 1997 PREVIEW BROCHURE 0161 238 5262 238 5262		France Traditional holiday properties of character and quality in France and Corsica. Many with pool. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143681 QUOTE REF 1001 AND MORE INFO 01993 700600		India INDIA Explore Kerala and the Bungle Bungle, trek the legendary Larapinta Trail, or raft the famous Franklin River. For high quality, small group adventure holidays call us now for a free Colour Brochure. Tel: 0181 870 2600 WORLD EXPEDITIONS		India GOA KERALA NOW £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 1997 SPECIALS JAN £299 JAN £299 FEB £299 FEB £299 MAR £299 MAR £299 APR £299 APR £299 MAY £299 MAY £299 JUN £299 JUN £299 JUL £299 JUL £299 AUG £299 AUG £299 SEP £299 SEP £299 OCT £299 OCT £299 NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 0171 571 8800			
Eastern Europe PRAGUE, VIENNA, BUDAPEST and Slovakia. Central locations, hotels & apartments. Call 0181 955 5323. ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		Portugal PORTUGAL Holiday properties throughout the most beautiful areas of Portugal. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143682 QUOTE REF 1001 AND MORE INFO 01993 700600		S. AFRICA JOHANNESBURG C. TOWN NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 1997 SPECIALS JAN £299 JAN £299 FEB £299 FEB £299 MAR £299 MAR £299 APR £299 APR £299 MAY £299 MAY £299 JUN £299 JUN £299 JUL £299 JUL £299 AUG £299 AUG £299 SEP £299 SEP £299 OCT £299 OCT £299 NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 0171 571 8800					
France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		Portugal PORTUGAL Holiday properties throughout the most beautiful areas of Portugal. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143682 QUOTE REF 1001 AND MORE INFO 01993 700600		S. AFRICA JOHANNESBURG C. TOWN NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 1997 SPECIALS JAN £299 JAN £299 FEB £299 FEB £299 MAR £299 MAR £299 APR £299 APR £299 MAY £299 MAY £299 JUN £299 JUN £299 JUL £299 JUL £299 AUG £299 AUG £299 SEP £299 SEP £299 OCT £299 OCT £299 NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 0171 571 8800					
France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		Portugal PORTUGAL Holiday properties throughout the most beautiful areas of Portugal. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143682 QUOTE REF 1001 AND MORE INFO 01993 700600		S. AFRICA JOHANNESBURG C. TOWN NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 1997 SPECIALS JAN £299 JAN £299 FEB £299 FEB £299 MAR £299 MAR £299 APR £299 APR £299 MAY £299 MAY £299 JUN £299 JUN £299 JUL £299 JUL £299 AUG £299 AUG £299 SEP £299 SEP £299 OCT £299 OCT £299 NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 0171 571 8800					
France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		Portugal PORTUGAL Holiday properties throughout the most beautiful areas of Portugal. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143682 QUOTE REF 1001 AND MORE INFO 01993 700600		S. AFRICA JOHANNESBURG C. TOWN NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 1997 SPECIALS JAN £299 JAN £299 FEB £299 FEB £299 MAR £299 MAR £299 APR £299 APR £299 MAY £299 MAY £299 JUN £299 JUN £299 JUL £299 JUL £299 AUG £299 AUG £299 SEP £299 SEP £299 OCT £299 OCT £299 NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 0171 571 8800					
France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		Portugal PORTUGAL Holiday properties throughout the most beautiful areas of Portugal. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143682 QUOTE REF 1001 AND MORE INFO 01993 700600		S. AFRICA JOHANNESBURG C. TOWN NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 1997 SPECIALS JAN £299 JAN £299 FEB £299 FEB £299 MAR £299 MAR £299 APR £299 APR £299 MAY £299 MAY £299 JUN £299 JUN £299 JUL £299 JUL £299 AUG £299 AUG £299 SEP £299 SEP £299 OCT £299 OCT £299 NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 0171 571 8800					
France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		Portugal PORTUGAL Holiday properties throughout the most beautiful areas of Portugal. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143682 QUOTE REF 1001 AND MORE INFO 01993 700600		S. AFRICA JOHANNESBURG C. TOWN NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 1997 SPECIALS JAN £299 JAN £299 FEB £299 FEB £299 MAR £299 MAR £299 APR £299 APR £299 MAY £299 MAY £299 JUN £299 JUN £299 JUL £299 JUL £299 AUG £299 AUG £299 SEP £299 SEP £299 OCT £299 OCT £299 NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 0171 571 8800					
France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		Portugal PORTUGAL Holiday properties throughout the most beautiful areas of Portugal. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143682 QUOTE REF 1001 AND MORE INFO 01993 700600		S. AFRICA JOHANNESBURG C. TOWN NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 1997 SPECIALS JAN £299 JAN £299 FEB £299 FEB £299 MAR £299 MAR £299 APR £299 APR £299 MAY £299 MAY £299 JUN £299 JUN £299 JUL £299 JUL £299 AUG £299 AUG £299 SEP £299 SEP £299 OCT £299 OCT £299 NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 0171 571 8800					
France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		Portugal PORTUGAL Holiday properties throughout the most beautiful areas of Portugal. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143682 QUOTE REF 1001 AND MORE INFO 01993 700600		S. AFRICA JOHANNESBURG C. TOWN NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 1997 SPECIALS JAN £299 JAN £299 FEB £299 FEB £299 MAR £299 MAR £299 APR £299 APR £299 MAY £299 MAY £299 JUN £299 JUN £299 JUL £299 JUL £299 AUG £299 AUG £299 SEP £299 SEP £299 OCT £299 OCT £299 NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 0171 571 8800					
France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		Portugal PORTUGAL Holiday properties throughout the most beautiful areas of Portugal. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143682 QUOTE REF 1001 AND MORE INFO 01993 700600		S. AFRICA JOHANNESBURG C. TOWN NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 1997 SPECIALS JAN £299 JAN £299 FEB £299 FEB £299 MAR £299 MAR £299 APR £299 APR £299 MAY £299 MAY £299 JUN £299 JUN £299 JUL £299 JUL £299 AUG £299 AUG £299 SEP £299 SEP £299 OCT £299 OCT £299 NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 0171 571 8800					
France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		Portugal PORTUGAL Holiday properties throughout the most beautiful areas of Portugal. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143682 QUOTE REF 1001 AND MORE INFO 01993 700600		S. AFRICA JOHANNESBURG C. TOWN NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 1997 SPECIALS JAN £299 JAN £299 FEB £299 FEB £299 MAR £299 MAR £299 APR £299 APR £299 MAY £299 MAY £299 JUN £299 JUN £299 JUL £299 JUL £299 AUG £299 AUG £299 SEP £299 SEP £299 OCT £299 OCT £299 NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 0171 571 8800					
France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL 11337 ATOL 1922 ATG.		Portugal PORTUGAL Holiday properties throughout the most beautiful areas of Portugal. FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143682 QUOTE REF 1001 AND MORE INFO 01993 700600		S. AFRICA JOHANNESBURG C. TOWN NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 1997 SPECIALS JAN £299 JAN £299 FEB £299 FEB £299 MAR £299 MAR £299 APR £299 APR £299 MAY £299 MAY £299 JUN £299 JUN £299 JUL £299 JUL £299 AUG £299 AUG £299 SEP £299 SEP £299 OCT £299 OCT £299 NOV £299 NOV £299 DEC £299 DEC £299 0171 571 8800					
France Allez France Villas & Cottages Coast or Country Many with pools Best Value Luxury Mobile Homes On 4-Star Sites £59 MANY PRICES REDUCED FOR 1997 (01903) 748123 ATOL											

The riddle of Percy Island

Andrew Thorman goes in search of some family answers

What a bastard. He just said goodbye, handed me a fiver and disappeared. He was my stepfather. I was 12 years old. Thirty five years later, there I was in Australia on the trail of the man who walked out on my mother, me, and my two younger brothers.

In 1961 we were all living on a farm in north Devon. Today Andrew Martin, Old Etonian, former Olympic athlete and runaway husband and father, lives on Percy Island, seven square miles of tropical paradise on the Great Barrier Reef.

Percy Island lies some 70 miles off Mackay, one of three islands that make up the Northumberland Group, "discovered" in the early 18th century by Captain Cook. Not that he ever visited the islands - he sort of sailed by, and named them after the Duke of Northumberland.

But many others have visited the islands, including escaped convicts, murderers, treasure hunters and runaway dads.

Reaching the islands is an adventure in itself. There are no cruise boats, no airport and no guide book. Which is, of course, why the Percys are still unspoilt. Many have wanted to cash in on their tourist potential - miles of sand, coral, safe swimming, rainforest, and rare plant life. However, they are under the protection of the national parks and you require a permit to visit.

I arrived there after a seven-hour journey in a 60ft ketch, a former pearling lugger. The *Ruby Charlotte* picked me up from a dot on the map called Carmilla Creek, 120 miles south of Mackay, a mangrove-infested lagoon of milky blue water which appeared to be deserted but for discarded "timies" scattered about the foreshore. A large sign warned of the dangers of box jellyfish.

Life on board was tranquility itself at first. As I sat under a balm tree in a wicker chair tied to the deck, drinking home-made mead (brewed on Percy from the island's honey), it all seemed a far cry from winter back home.

Five hours into the trip I was clutching a life-jacket, throwing up and praying for salvation as the boat pitched and rolled in 20ft seas full of sharks. Well, that's the way it seemed to me.

I opened my eyes to see a stunning beach fringed with palm trees. The boat was cruising through calm, turquoise water towards a jetty and dry land.

Most visitors to the Great Barrier Reef head straight for the more easily accessible tourist destinations such as Magnetic, Green and Great Keppel



The Percy Islands, some 70 miles off Mackay, were "discovered" by Captain Cook in the 18th century

PHOTOGRAPH: TONY STONE

Islands, ignoring the chance to visit the hundreds of less well known but equally spectacular gems, such as the Percys.

There are three islands in the Northumberland group. Two are deserted. Andrew Martin lives on Middle Percy. We anchored in a cyclone-proof lagoon, one of the few safe anchorages for the thousands of boats that cruise these islands.

On the beach was a huge A-frame building providing overnight comfort for yachtsmen, from where Andrew Martin earns a meagre living by selling home-grown produce such as mango chutney, honey, beer and fresh fruit. A rudimentary shower allows sailors and the occasional other visitor, like me, to freshen up - when there's water. When I was there it hadn't rained for months and the water tank was dry. The beach was deserted but for a lone bull, one of a small herd of Indian cattle introduced to Middle Percy.

The first people to set foot on the

island, in the early 19th century, had rather more to contend with. Four white botanists were eaten by the then resident Aborigines.

Next came three gold-diggers, attracted by the huge veins of quartz visible in the cliffs. One was murdered, one committed suicide, the other simply vanished. Then the bodies of several escaped convicts were found washed up on the beach, after the yacht they'd stolen from the Bishop of Tasmania was wrecked on the approach. Then there was a character called Jimmy Joss, who hid a thousand gold sovereigns and couldn't remember where. They've never been found.

After Jimmy came ex-Indian Army veteran Colonel Armitage, who grew coffee, and, in 1922, the White family, who remained on the island until Andrew Martin bought the lease in 1963 for the equivalent of £5,000.

It's three miles from the makeshift jetty to the house. The road - a rock-

strewn track that gives you a feeling of being in a liquidiser - snakes its way through forest and creek to a large clearing in the middle of the island. The house - a traditional Queensland-style built on wooden stilts - looks the picture of luxury. It isn't.

David Attenborough could have made an entire TV series, just by focusing on my room. The dim light from the battery power was enough to make out a 6ft-long brown tree snake making its way to bed - my bed.

I put my head on the pillow, only to hear a scratching sound. Using a torch I looked under the bed. Hanging from the springs were - and I counted them - 15 bats.

I reckoned there was more wildlife inside the house than outside, and that's where I retreated.

The next day, after a breakfast of goats' cheese, goats' butter and goats' milk, I headed for the sea and a blissful hour swimming among angel fish.

The island is stocked with sheep, cattle, kangaroos, emu (just one) - and goats. These are regularly shot to provide meat for the residents and their dogs. I never want to see a goat again.

There were lots of snakes - but Andrew said they were harmless. I reckon that nothing in Australia is harmless.

After two days I hitched a ride on a boat to a neighbouring island (20 miles away) where there is an airstrip. As we took off I reflected on my greeting from the King of Percy - his phrase not mine.

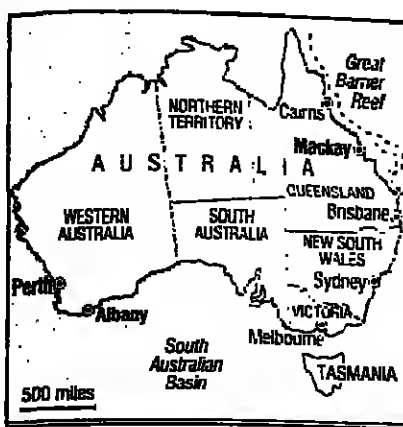
Andrew had stood there, in a pair of mauve Speedos and a filthy cotton T-shirt. He was supported by an upturned broom which he used as a crutch.

"Hi," he beamed. He shook me by the hand. "I'm glad to see you."

"So," I asked him "Why did you leave us?"

"Ah, that's a difficult story... how's your mother?"

Australia survival guide



How to get there

In the past 10 years, air fares to Australasia have fallen by about half. For the lowest prices to Australia in the next four weeks, call Austravel (0171-731 7755) and Airtrav (01706 260100) and ask about late-availability fares on their charters. Return fares as low as £424 (including tax) are available on a few departures to a variety of points in Australia.

Among scheduled carriers, fares on quality airlines are hovering around the £700-£900 band for departures before or after the mid-December to early January peak. (Over Christmas, a few seats are being released by airlines and agents, but you can expect to pay well over £1,000 for the privilege.)

The real price battles begin in March and last until the end of June - Australia's autumn and early winter, but not at all a bad time to visit Queensland or Western Australia. It should not be too difficult to find a return ticket for around £600 including tax, or £100 more if you get a couple of internal flights thrown in too.

How to get in

British passport holders need a visit visa for Australia. You can get one from several travel agents that specialise in the destination, but you pay a fee of around £15. Visas issued by the Australian High Commission in London, or the Consulate in Manchester, are free. Call 0891 600333 for more information.

How to get around

Ansett and Qantas, the two leading domestic airlines in Australia, both operate airpass schemes. The basic idea is about the same for both: providing you take a minimum of two flights within the country, you pay £80 for each sector (with an extra £25 for particularly long flights to the Northern Territory and Western Australia).

A range of bus passes is available on Greyhound Pioneer, culminating in a year of unlimited travel around Australia for A\$1,350. Rail passes, both regional and national, can be obtained from Long Haul Leisure, PO Box 113, Peterborough PE3 8HY (01733 335599).

How to get out

The Australian departure tax of A\$25 (about £13) is now included in the price of your air ticket, as is UK Air Passenger Duty of £10. Other local taxes, such as Sydney's noise tax (£2) and the airport levy in Cairns (£3.50), are also included.

Free information

Australian Tourist Commission, Gemini House, 10-18 Putney Hill, London SW15 (0181-780 2227).

Go Australia is a free guide booklet with a reasonable ratio of editorial to advertising. Send a large self-addressed envelope with two first-class stamps to Go Publishing, 64 Chiswick High Road, London W4 1SY.



Simon Calder

It is not unprecedented for guidebooks to be used by the military - for example Bomber Command in World War Two used Baedeker guides to try to avoid destroying too much of Germany's cultural wealth (although this failed tragically in the case of Dresden). Should you find yourself in Lebanon, don't be surprised if a soldier asks to borrow your guidebook. Vacation Work Publications of Oxford has just received a fax from Captain Gunnar Grut at the headquarters of UNIFIL, the United Nations force in Lebanon.

"I am in need of a good map describing the rest of Lebanon. Our soldiers have started travelling more extensively inside Lebanon. Our unit-maps are limited to the area of operation, which of course is in the south."

"So I am appealing to you: would you permit me to use the map on page 15 in *Travelers Survival Kit: Lebanon* by Carole Cadwalladr and Anna Sutton?"

Captain Grut pointed out that there was something in it for the publisher: "I would of course compliment and refer to your publication, and this will be read by more than 600 Norwegian soldiers serving in Lebanon - and their friends and relatives."

The publisher said yes. The prospects of armed forces around the world relying on guidebooks raises some intriguing possibilities. A copy of said Lebanon guide is on offer to the reader who suggests the least suitable book for an army to depend upon.

The British Tourist Authority is to be commended for promoting cycling in its new campaign

to attract visitors to the UK, which was announced at the World Travel Market this week. However, some of the cogs in Britain's tourism infrastructure are not helping a smooth introduction of the initiative. For example, a protest meeting has been held in Henley-on-Thames about the prospect of the town being "swamped" with cyclists once the National Cycle Network, intended to pass through the town, is established. Anyone who has ever tried to drive a car through Henley might suggest that bicycles are not actually the problem here.

Further north, ScotRail is continuing its vendetta against cyclists. There has been pressure in these pages and elsewhere to ease the policy that allows just one bicycle to travel on some trains in Scotland. So after the BTA's announcement at the World Travel Market, I went along to the ScotRail stand to ask what improvements have been made following so many adverse comments about the company's policy.

"Nothing has changed," I was informed. "This is one of those awkward situations where we haven't really got the capacity". Other train operators are busily making improvements in a bid to entice more cyclists on to trains, however ScotRail remains defiant.

The first day of closure of the southern section of London's Bakerloo line, mentioned last

week, was not a huge success. Passengers who found their trips curtailed at Piccadilly Circus tried to follow a smattering of signs to the Bakerloo line that is supposed to replace the Tube.

They all ended up at the Emaginator exhibit in the Trocadero Centre, a virtual reality attraction. The puzzled staff could offer them all manner of rides, but none of these could enable them to the Elephant &

Castle. Plenty of countries have consulates in London and Liverpool, but the Dominican Republic stands out on the diplomatic list for having a mission in Grimsby. Previously I had thought that the honorary Belgian consul in Penicuik, in the Scottish Borders, had the strangest diplomatic posting. But is there an even less plausible one?

China with the summer and specialties

The Silk Road

In the footsteps of Marco Polo trace this legendary route across the remote and spectacular landscape of western China.

22 days from the Forbidden City to the bazaars of Kashgar, from the end of the Great Wall to the wastes of the Gobi and the heights of the Pamirs.

Select departures on 25 May, 20 Jul, 31 Aug 1997

Prices from £2995

Paradise Found

20 days in the Middle Kingdom, through a world of gardens, canals, and water-borne villages to the Venice of the East - Suzhou - where philosophers and mandarins retired.

Plus the splendours of the Forbidden City, the Terracotta Army, the sights of Shanghai and Hong Kong and a cruise through the magical mountains of Guilin.

Select departures on 13 Apr, 20 Aug, 7 Sep, 5 Oct 1997

Prices from £2995

The Dragon's Crown

When you have viewed the splendours of the Great Wall and the Forbidden City and the savoured the delights of the Guilin and Hong Kong, retire to the timeless peace of Anhui. Far off the beaten track among the clouds of the Yellow Mountain and the lanes of ancient villages.

Select departures on 13 Apr, 20 Aug, 7 Sep, 5 Oct 1997

Prices from £2995

A taste of the Orient as it's meant to be

Phone 24 hour hotline for our superb brochure 02233 211818

5% off basic tour price on bookings made direct with CTS before 31 January 1997



For tours of China, talk to the experts. China Travel Service (UK) Ltd

CTS House, 7 Upper St Martin's Lane, London WC2H 9DL

Tel: 021-896 9911 Fax: 021-896 3321

DISCOVERY THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL ...AND BEYOND

GREECE • TURKEY • SYRIA • CYPRUS ISRAEL • EGYPT • JORDAN

RED SEA SPRING '97 CRUISES ABOARD AEGEAN I

Join Voyages of Discovery next Spring and enjoy a memorable 10 or 11 night cruise visiting up to nine different ports of call in seven countries on three continents. A choice of excursions is available from most ports of call below in a brief outline of our Red Sea Discovery cruise departing 21st February showing just some of the highlights. All new bookings confirmed before 29th November will receive a free excursion voucher to the value of £300 per person.

DAY	DATE	PORT	EXCURSIONS
Fri	21st Feb	Piraeus, Greece	Athens City & Acropolis
Sat	22nd Feb	Kusadasi, Turkey	Ephesus
Sun	23rd Feb	At sea	
Mon	24th Feb	Tartus, Syria	Damascus
Tue	25th Feb	Larnaca, Cyprus	Nicosia
Wed	26th Feb	Ashdod, Israel	Jerusalem & Bethlehem
Thu	27th Feb	Port Said, Egypt	Cairo & the Pyramids
Fri	28th Feb	Transit Suez Canal	
Sat	1st Mar	Safage, Egypt	Luxor, Karnak & Valley of the Kings
Sun	2nd Mar		Petra
Mon	3rd Mar	Aqaba, Jordan	
Tue	4th Mar	Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt	St Catherine's Monastery

Fares from £1295 for this 11 night cruise include:

- Return flights from Gatwick or Manchester
- All port and airport taxes
- All meals and entertainment
- Programme of stimulating talks on fascinating ports of call and excursions
- Special guest speaker

24 HOUR BROCHURELINE 01293 433041

Voyages of Discovery
Premiere House
Betta Way
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 2GB
Tel: 01293 433030
Fax: 01293 433036

THE INDEPENDENT Celebrate New Year in Style

3 VERY SPECIAL DAYS FOR £399

Make this New Year a very special celebration and take the world famous Venice Simplon Orient-Express to the city of Chester for a two night stay. You will board the historic carriages of the British Pullman at Victoria for the mid morning journey north with lunch, wine and champagne included. After arriving in style you will transfer to your hotel in the Chester area for a two night stay including New Year's Eve celebrations and a sumptuous dinner. There will be time to explore the surrounding countryside on an optional excursion before returning to London, again on board the Pullman of the Venice Simplon Orient-Express on January 2nd 1977.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Return travel between London and Chester on the Venice Simplon Orient-Express.
- Lunch with wine and champagne on the train.
- 2 nights accommodation in the Chester area.
- New Year's Eve celebrations and 5 course dinner.
- Full English breakfast during your stay.
- Dinner on New Year's Day.

This holiday has been arranged in conjunction with Festive Holidays Limited, ABTA V106X.

Reg in England 1989/97 Newspaper Publishing plc. Reg Office: 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 4DL.



Send for your brochure today by telephoning FESTIVE HOLIDAYS ON 0990 55 33 55 or return the coupon below to:

The Independent Celebrate New Year Offer, FESTIVE HOLIDAYS LIMITED, ACORN HOUSE, GREAT OAKS, BASILDON, ESSEX, SS14 1AB.

THE INDEPENDENT NEW YEAR OFFER

Please forward me an itinerary and a booking form.

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms):

Address:

Post Code:

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Newspaper Publishing plc or from companies approved by Newspaper Publishing plc.

By Newspaper Publishing plc.

Road to Mandalay?

Stephen Wood checks out unlikely ski resorts at the World Travel Market

PHOTOGRAPH: STOCK SHOTS

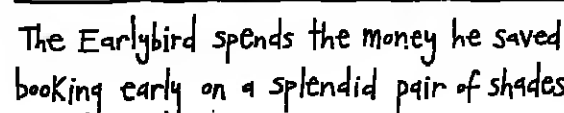
The string of six resorts near Beirut offers the same promise. The Lebanon stand gave me their excellent 34-page skiing guide – and a lovely idea. A cheapish flight to Beirut; skiing at The Cedars and Faraya (lifts to 2463m, all colours of piste); the sea only half-an-hour away; Lebanese food... just the thought of it was worth a day in the scrum of the World Travel Market.

The Burma Action Group is organising a 'Don't Visit Burma Yet' evening on 19 November, to include a screening of John Pilger's interview with Aung San Suu Kyi. Call 0171-359 7679.

The Burma Action Group is organising a 'Don't Visit Burma Yet' evening on 19 November, to include a screening of John Pilger's interview with Aung San Suu Kyi. Call 0171-359 7679.

FAX: 0171 293 2505

original -
AITO!



You can make savings on thousands of skiing holidays from the Wintersports Operator of the year,* if you're on Earlybird and book now.

THOMSON

Don't forget the birds ...

Daniel Butler on the best garden snacks

As the first serious frosts slice through the borders and whip the last of the leaves from the horse chestnuts, it's time to spare a thought for non-migratory birds that will continue to visit the garden. "Hard weather can be a real killer, particularly for smaller species like wrens, tits and robins," says Chris Harbard, a spokesman for the RSPB. "Snow makes it difficult for them to find food, while long nights and low temperatures mean energy reserves can drop dangerously. Millions of birds survive each winter thanks to bird tables, which also bring rewards for humans, by increasing the range of visitors and making them much easier to observe. Indeed, when people first start putting out bird food, they are often surprised at the range of birds they find are sharing their garden."

In spite of this, there is confusion about when, where and what to provide, indeed, until recently the RSPB advised only winter feeding.

"We used to think there should be plenty of wild food during summer, which, by definition, is more 'natural' and therefore better," explains Mr Harbard. In fact, research now suggests that feeding all year can be a real help, particularly in urban gardens with few mature trees. This means a narrower range of food, and reduced breeding success for many species.

A bird table allows parents to feed themselves quickly, freeing them to find natural food for their young – particularly in bad weather. As a precaution, however, the RSPB advises against hard, fatty foods. "Parents sometimes choke their young with lumps that are too big for them to swallow," Mr Harbard says.

There are few such worries in winter, when virtually anything will do. In general, the more varied the spread, the more visitors. Seed attracts finches; tins like peanuts; and thrushes appreciate fruit such as apples cut in half. Another option is a "bird cake" made by melting one part lard with two parts of seed, nuts, dried fruit, breadcrumbs or kitchen scraps. The gooey mass is left to set and is then hung up outside.

Scraps are also welcome, particularly those with a high fat content, such as grated cheese rind or chicken carcasses. But salted peanuts should be avoided at all costs. Mr Harbard adds that though birds have recently been expressed about the saltiness of bacon rinds, there is no evidence that they cause problems. And the birds love them. "If you're worried, you can always soak them first in water," he says.

Water should, in any case, always be available, particularly when natural supplies are likely to be frozen solid.

Any good party, however, attracts gawwatches. Squirrels can be deterred with a proprietary feeder, or by threading a wire through two plastic bottles and suspending feeders in between. Most cats are put off by a tall bird table with a good overhang, while keeping the ground clear beneath it reduces the risk of rat invasion.

Sparrowhawks are more difficult. Not only are they protected; they are attracted to the bird table by the regular diners – for "peanuts" read "blue tits". Most bird watchers appreciate their speed and agility, but for the squeamish, silver foil threaded on cotton may act as a partial deterrent.

The feeding station should be placed where you can see it. After all, you're putting out all the food," says Mr Harbard. "Make the most of it."

Feeding Garden Birds, is available free from the RSPB – which also sells feeders and bird tables. Send an a/c to RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL.

How does your garlic grow?

By Tom

PHOTOGRAPH BY DIANA MILLER

Perhaps those baffling people who find garlic repulsive are really vampires and fiends. Since I've never hung around with the likes of Vincent Price, my appreciation of garlic has largely been confined to the kitchen, where I revere it as one of life's great gastronomic pleasures. It also endears itself to the gardener in me, by being a complete doddle to grow.

With such qualities, it is not surprising that garlic is a highly prized, ubiquitous commodity, with a history of cultivation that predates written records. As with other long-domesticated plants, garlic's wild origins are uncertain, but were probably the rocky steppes of central Asia. There are carvings of garlic dating back to 3750BC, and one of the less celebrated finds within the extraordinary 3,500-year-old tomb of Tutankhamun were six dried, but perfectly preserved, garlic cloves, presumably included so that the poor chap could continue to enjoy his meals in the after life.

Garlic is an essential constituent of nearly all the world's great cuisines, but it has been even more valued for its therapeutic properties.

The Egyptians doled it out for heart problems, intestinal worms, headaches

and tumours; in India it was employed as an antiseptic, and the Chinese brewed up garlic tea to treat such nasties as cholera and dysentery. In Europe it was used as protection against bubonic plague (the mortality statistics must cast doubt on its effectiveness here) and more recently, during both world wars, as a wound disinfectant. To this day it remains a popular "herbal" remedy for an amazingly diverse array of complaints.

When it comes to hard medical fact, scientific research has led even such august publications as the *British Medical Journal* to concede that some garlic preparations (the less processed, the better) have a beneficial effect on certain pathological processes. Most significant is its influence on cardiovascular disease by reducing blood cholesterol, lowering blood pressure and discouraging inappropriate clot formation. There is evidence, too, that garlic has widespread antibacterial and antifungal properties and affords limited protection against some cancers.

All this might be enough to persuade you to consume quantities of garlic even if it tasted foul, but, of course, it doesn't. As an unrepentant garlicophile, I am driven to despair by timid English

recipes that never prescribe more than a single clove. I add a minimum of three on principle and have not yet encountered garlic overkill. However, studies of our shopping habits are beginning to suggest that the ultra-cautious British palate is at last waking up to the overwhelming wonderfulness of this bulb.

Garlic is commonly associated with Mediterranean cultures (though more is eaten per head in the Far East) and it is this, perhaps, that has created the fallacy that garlic does not grow well in our cooler climate. It is in reality bone hardy, prolific and unfussy and, unlike some aromatic herbs, it will develop as fine a flavour here as anywhere.

Garlic is traditionally planted on the longest day of the year and harvested on the shortest. Other sources recommend spring planting. Both should be ignored. Plant instead from late October to late November as garlic benefits from a long growing season, and many varieties require several weeks of cold to develop properly. On heavy, poorly drained soils it may be wise to set the cloves initially into pots, and delay the final planting out until early the following spring.

Simply take a garlic bulb and break it into separate cloves. Plant these 15cm apart each way in a sunny spot. They are

prone to all the ugly diseases of their onion relatives, including white rot and eelworm, so it is a wise precaution to include them in a rotation of crops. The usual advice is to set each clove around 5cm deep but I have reaped heavier harvests by planting them up to twice this depth, so you may wish to experiment. This may sound insulting, but do be sure to plant them the right way up – pointed tip upwards, flat root-plate downwards.

Apart from the odd bit of weeding, that's about all you need to worry about. The following summer the leaves will begin to yellow, at which point the garlics are ready for lifting. Delay until the foliage has died right down, and there is a risk that the cloves will begin to sprout again. Be careful not to bash them about, as they bruise easily at this stage and will then rot in store.

Put the harvested garlic somewhere warm and dry (indoors, if necessary) for a week or so, until the outer skins are dry and papery. If you're in the mood you can then plait them into a garlic rope, but hanging them up in loose bunches in a cool, airy place is perfectly adequate.

Varieties differ considerably in how long they will store. Some have only a short dormant period and will not keep much beyond November. Long dor-

mancy types, which include most available in this country, should see you right the way through to the following year's harvest, making self-sufficiency in garlic a real possibility.

The garlic grown in different parts of the world differs in other significant characteristics as well, but the reality at present is that little choice is available.

Most commercially produced British garlic is grown on the Isle of Wight and this is the usual source of the garlic sold through seed catalogues and garden centres, some with a specific name, but more often not. This at least means that it has a record of performing well under British conditions.

Having said that, I have had my best crops from a much larger Continental variety called 'Cristo'. In the past I have had perfectly acceptable results from garlic bought from the supermarket. However, there is a risk that an imported variety will not grow well under British conditions. More significantly, there is no way of guaranteeing that it is free of serious virus or nematode infestation that will wreak havoc.

Garlic 'Cristo' and other Continental varieties are available from Jennifer Birch, Garfield Villa, Belle Vue Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire (01453 750371).

Weekend work

Even in the best regulated gardens many flower beds are looking untidy now. On a dry day it is worth spending some time removing dead annuals and spent stems of herbaceous plants. The early spring bulbs will look so much prettier emerging from a neat bed than from a tangle of dead leaves. If left, the decaying plants will also provide shelter for slugs and snails, which will emerge in spring to take the tops off plants. Try to tread as little as possible on the flower beds when the weather is wet, so the soil does not become compacted.

Many lawns are now covered in worm casts, which will squidge flat into nasty-looking mud patches if stepped on. These muddy areas make it harder for the finer grasses to thrive, so the lawn will ultimately become coarser. At the end of a windy or sunny day, the casts should be dry enough to sweep off.

Spend some time sorting out the garden's support systems. Make sure trellising, stakes, wall hooks and wires are secured and the plants well fastened to them. Generally, trellises and poles need to be twice as strong as you might think – climbers, especially robust twiners such as wisteria, grow quickly from spindly twigs to heavy branches.

For a bit of winter colour, think about window boxes and tubs. Winter-flowering pansies and polyanthus are obvious choices, but also consider the tiny shrubs that can be bought for £2 or less. Six- or eight-inch variegated hollies and euonymus, or skimmias with big trusses of buds, will all provide interest for the whole winter, and they can be thrown away in spring without too much of a qualm if there is no room for them elsewhere. All these, and heathers, will stay looking good in darker areas. Pansies and polyanthus will need a little more light to look at their best. Paler, warmer colours stand out much better in the darker days of winter, so a tub of lemon pansies will be far more eye-catching than blue. If the tub is big enough, a centrepiece of a bright orange striped phlox would complement the pansies. The orange-berried winter cherry, or solanum, will survive on a warm window sill, although it can be irresistible to blackbirds – and if it loses its berries it loses its point.

Apples and pears can be pruned now. If a tree has been left unpruned for several years, concentrate on removing one or maybe several branches entirely, rather than trying to take something off

every branch. The middle of the tree should be opened up to allow light and air in, and any large wounds should be treated with a disease preventative. Thin, whippy branchlets which have the smaller, non-flowering buds on them, should be reduced by a third to a half.

If the garden lacks interest at this time of year, watch out for trees and shrubs that are coming into flower in other gardens, to work out what to buy. Autumn cherries begin to flower as soon as their leaves drop, and may stay in flower throughout the winter. Some species of mahonia are in flower already, although the heavenly-scented cultivar 'Charity' will not flower for another month. For scent, there is already blossom on some viburnums, notably *V. farreri*. The winter-flowering irises, *I. unguicularis* and *I. lazica*, are also worth considering. They will be coming into flower very soon, and a couple of bulbs planted in a dry, sunny spot will produce 30 or 40 winter blooms in a couple of years. If you have a Christmas rose showing buds just through the ground, a glass bell cloche may bring them into flower for Christmas day.

Anna McKane

ELEGANT ARCHWAYS

Beautiful Trellis Arches to enhance your garden. Easy to assemble, the arches are fully adjustable in height and width. Craftsmen built with solid wood posts which are strong enough to hang a gate.

FOR RAPID SUMMER COMPOSTING

Slatted Hot Box Size 84x41. All our timber is pressure treated for long life.

To place your order or for more information contact: COUNTRY CRAFT MARKETING LTD, THE WILLOW BARK, REDBURN, BARNON MILL, NORTHUMBRIA NE47 7EA. TEL: 014341 344453. FAX: 014341 344445. 64.50 postage and packing.

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED OR PAY BY CHEQUE

SEATS • COMPOST BINS • ARBOURS

To advertise in this section please call the Gardening Team on 0171 293 2323/2344.

Heating for Conservatory or Greenhouse

Natural systems for plants & people. Very cheap or even FREE to run.

- Alpine Sun. Heats objects - not rising air.
- Midnight Sun. Stores sunlight. Re-radiates only when needed. Flexible modules from £9.
- Stroco. Cools steamy days. Slows & recycles up to 50%W stored sunlight on demand. Warmes & dries damp drunks & drippy dawns. Smart, compact. Heat your house too!

Brochure on 0345 660923 till 10pm, or write for: Tilt Valley Tools, FREEPOST NEA1360, Wetherby, Northumberland NE17 9BE.

Spoil yourself with choice

Not 1, not 2, but 3 new catalogues from Mr Fothergill's...

- Hundreds of great new varieties
- The best quality double pansies
- A new catalogue for you to try
- Delicious potting mix
- Rare and unusual perennials
- European vegetable seeds
- The new & unique 'Garden Seed'
- 160 pages of garden inspiration
- Over 1200 colour photographs

Please call for details. We're easy to find when you know the way!

THE CITRUS CENTRE

Large collection of Citrus
Many Spicing Varieties
Special Citrus Food
Advice on Care & Cultivation
Mail order welcome
Open Wed-Sun 10am-5.30pm (to Bank Holidays)

Please call for details. We're easy to find when you know the way!

THE CITRUS CENTRE
Marshall Nursery, West Mole Lane (Off B1111 Lane), Fillingborough, West Sussex, BN20 2EA. Tel/Fax 01793 527166

24hr Customer Helpline 01638 751887/552512

Write to Mr Fothergill, Dept DG, Kew Gardens, Richmond TW9 70B. Postcode 01638 751624

سكس من الامم

Scots get the Scone, but Major wants the jam

The Stone of Destiny is handed back to Scotland 700 years after it was taken

Steve Boggan

The ancient Stone of Destiny was returned to Scotland yesterday amid a mixture of optimistic nationalism, the skin of bagpipes and the whine of hard-nosed Celtic sceptics.

After 700 years, the coronation stone crossed the River Tweed on its way home, a return engineered by Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, and John Major, the Prime Minister, in what was seen as either a grand gesture of reconciliation or a pre-clelection sop.

At 11am – one hour late because of a bomb scare – the stone, taken from the Scots in 1296 by a triumphant Edward I, stopped in an Army Land Rover at the centre of the Coldstream bridge which divides Scotland and England. There it was passed from No 7 Company the Coldstream Guards to an escort from the 1st Battalion the

Kings Own Scottish Borderers, who edged it gingerly into Scotland.

It was a moving moment witnessed by around 500 flag-waving patriots and schoolchildren. The Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Lowland Band of the Scottish Division struck up "The Return of the Stone", a piece of music written for the occasion by Capt Gavin Stoddart, director of Army bagpipe music at Edinburgh Castle.

For many, it was a moment of intense pride. Edward I took the stone – also known as the Stone of Scone – to further demoralise the Scots after he had crushed them. It had served as the seat on which all Scottish kings had been crowned since 839. According to myth, it had been used by Jacob as his pillow while in Bethel and had found its way to Scotland via Egypt and Spain. Its return,

therefore, represents the antithesis of that demoralisation.

"It's a wonderful thing for us," said Eleanor Moffat, owner of the nearest Scottish ovenshop to England. "It's ours and it belongs to us. It is part of our heritage. Besides, it will be good for tourism and that's good for all of us."

Alastair Brown-Scott, 63, chairman of the Coldstream Historical Society, was equally pleased. "It means that, after 700 years, something precious to us that was taken as a spoil of war is being given back," he said. "That will make all true Scots proud."

Mr Forsyth, and his opposite number on the Labour front benches, George Robertson, welcomed the return of the stone – although each was careful not to rouse Scots passions too much. Mr Forsyth spoke of closer ties with the English over 700 years, while Mr Robertson said the homecoming represented the start of a new era.

The return, however, has not pleased everyone. The sense of loss at Westminster Abbey – from where the stone was taken and to where it will return for future coronations – is palpable.

And among many Scots, the handing back of the stone is seen as patronising. "It's a nice gimmick to get Michael Forsyth re-elected, but it isn't enough," said Allan Petrie, a member of Dundee Scottish National Party, one of a number whose attempt to demonstrate against the return was quickly snuffed out.

"There are people going hungry and people without jobs and yet they spend thousands on this silly ceremony. We won't be happy until we get full independence, not the return of a piece of sandstone."

The condition of the stone is being assessed by specialists before being put on display at Edinburgh Castle at the end of the month. And more than one canny Scot was quick to point out yesterday that the fee to view the stone will be £5.50. While on show in England, it was free.



Stone home: Edinburgh Castle, where the Stone of Destiny will be kept



Taking the high road: the stone arrives at the Coldstream bridge on the border between Scotland and England to be handed over to the Kings Own Scottish Borderers

Photograph: John Voss

£17m fund for breast implant victims

Ian Burrell

Hundreds of British women have won the right to sue for a share of a \$25m (£17m) fund set aside for victims of faulty silicone breast implants.

Lawyers acting for three American companies which produced them agreed yesterday that British women should be entitled to compensation. Some may now win tens of thousands of pounds.

A court in Alabama last year ruled that only American women should be allowed to claim damages for injuries caused when the implants ruptured or led to silicone-related diseases.

Lawyers representing women in London, Nottingham and Sheffield appealed against the decision, along with others outside the US.

In what was described as a breakthrough for the British victims, lawyers representing the US companies, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Baxter and 3M, agreed that the foreign women had a right to compensation and said that a \$25m fund had been ring-fenced to pay them.

Paul Balen, of Freeth, Cartwright, Hunt, Dickins, in Nottingham, said of the decision: "I suspect that it will affect thousands of British women but that only hundreds will qualify for compensation because they have to be able to prove the source of the implant and the injury it caused."

Women will not be able to claim if their implants were provided by Dow-Corning, another American company which was the largest manufacturer of implants. It was the subject of an earlier global action.

So many claimants came forward to sue Dow-Corning that the company made it itself bankrupt rather than face the courts. Victims are still fighting for compensation. British women with a claim against it have until 14 February to claim. A separate action was brought against the three other companies. In an order to be made by the judge supervising the breast implant settlement, the three manufacturers have agreed to "settle the claims of all foreign claimants."

Only women who have already registered claims as part of the earlier global settlement will be entitled to seek a share of the \$25m fund. An estimated 10,000 British women have registered claims.

In the UK, 100,000 women have breast implants which are not entirely their own. Of these, 60,000 chose to have the extra bits for cosmetic reasons while 40,000 had implants after operations for breast cancer.

Most implants are made of a silicone envelope with a liquid of gel-like silicone filling. Silicone was assumed to be inert until the late-Eighties when evidence emerged in America that it could "bleed" and provoke skin and joint inflammation and diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis.

In the past four years there have been 18 studies of possible links between silicone and certain diseases and none has found a connection. One of the biggest, at Harvard Medical School, examined 87,500 nurses of whom 12,000 had implants. It found no greater incidence of illness among women who had implants than those who had not.

Julian Barnes's story on the art of making money

David Lister
Art News Editor

The text is by Julian Barnes. The pictures are by the celebrated British colourist Howard Hodgkin. It is only a short story, and the book is not much bigger than a compact disc. But it will set you back £750 for the basic version, and £1,500 for the full-blown, leather-bound version, each one on hand-painted blue paper.

Artists' books – books with a painter creating individual prints for each copy – are, not surprisingly, a rarity. Samuel Beckett collaborated with Jasper Johns and more than 20 years ago David Hockney did one of the Grimsby Fair Tales, but there have been few since.

The man who wants to revitalise the genre and is behind the Barnes/Hodgkin venture, is 46-year-old Simon Draper. In the Seventies he co-founded Virgin Records with Richard Branson. It was he, not Branson, who discovered Mike Oldfield and his *Tubular Bells* which gave the label its place in music history.

Bored with the music industry, Mr Draper left Virgin in 1992 and set up Palawan Press, which has so far dealt mainly in exclusive mail order.

It has published a lavish guide to Ferrari cars (£1,000 a copy) and an equally lavish guide to Aston Martins (£750).

Mr Draper had known Julian Barnes through a shared enthusiasm for wine. They met at a tasting. Both also knew

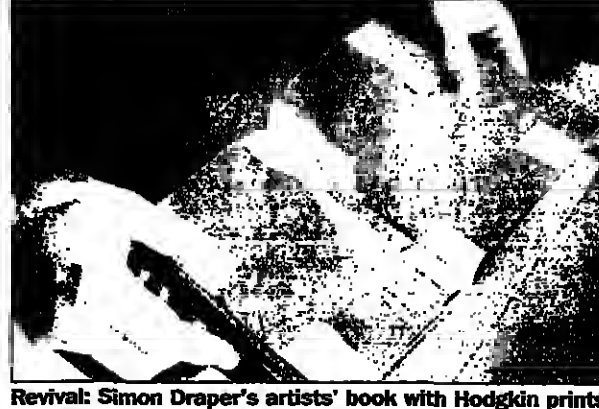
the former Turner Prize winner Howard Hodgkin, who was eager to see Mr Draper's Sussex mansion, designed by Lutyens. Over dinner they formulated the idea of a collaboration between Barnes and Hodgkin. The book consists of Barnes' short story, *Evermore* – about an Englishwoman's obsessive visits to her brother's First World War grave – already in his recent collection, *Cross Channel*.

Hodgkin then spent six months interspersing his vibrant hand-coloured prints. Each volume is unique, with the shades and density of Hodgkin's colourings differing slightly from volume to volume. Fifty numbered, £1,500 editions encased in a silver book-cloth portfolio box also contain two Hodgkin prints.

These sell at £500 each, the investment can be seen as being partly paid back. The 150 regular editions still have individual Hodgkin prints as illustrations.

Mr Draper, an art collector, says that even seen just as an investment these books should more than pay for themselves in years to come. But he is uncomfortable at the thought of them being viewed merely as investments.

"Making money hasn't been the principal driving force to produce the books... I believe in artists' books... You can frame a Howard Hodgkin print and put it on the wall. It's more accessible. But a book you have to get out. Enjoying it is a more considered activity. This is in some ways an idealistic venture."



Revival: Simon Draper's artists' book with Hodgkin prints

THE BBC INVITE YOU TO

You can now experience the amazing interactive worlds of Wallace and Gromit, Mastermind, Noddy and The Animals Of Farthing Wood

VIEW THEIR LATEST

on four exciting new CD-ROM releases from BBC Multimedia.

PROGRAMS

They're essential viewing at all good software stockists.

60 years of experience

هكذا من الأصل

arts & books

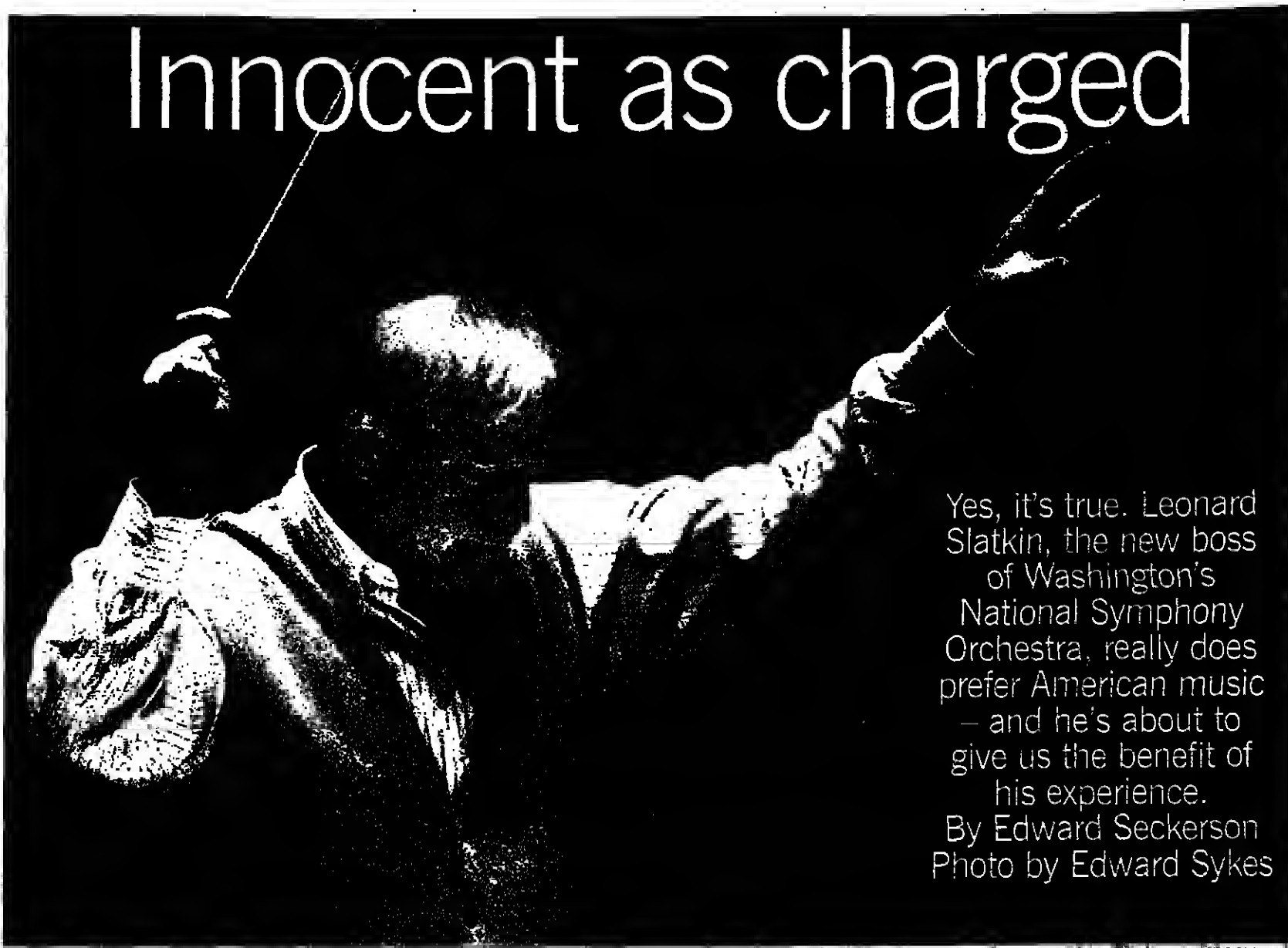
Great artist, nasty man?
Andrew Marr reflects on
Pablo Picasso6
Kenneth Baker's
favourite war verse8

In September, Washington DC was gearing up for another inauguration. And notwithstanding the minor distraction of the then upcoming presidential elections, Leonard Slatkin – the newly installed music director of the National Symphony Orchestra – was wasting no time in getting his message across. That's the way it is in DC. You send messages, people listen. They may not hear, but they listen. On Slatkin's opening night, they listened to Bernstein, Barber, Hanson, Baker and Ellington. That's 100 per cent home-grown produce. That's a message. By week three of the season, the tally of repertoire was 11 works, nine of them by Americans. Now that's not a message, that's a manifesto.

So Mister Slatkin went to Washington and began talking like a politician: "Look, this country doesn't need another Brahms, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Bruckner, Mahler orchestra – we've got enough of them. Twenty-five years ago, this country's major orchestras weren't defined just by how well they played, but by the repertoire they played. Whatever happened to that identification of orchestras and conductors with specific repertoire? And that's part of what I want to do here. If you're going to call an orchestra the National Symphony, it has to reflect the national character. Which is a lot of things, clearly. And even though I did just that in Saint Louis, it seems that people take this concept in a much more serious way here in Washington. It's a very political town in more ways than one. If you say something at a party or reception, the next day everyone knows about it. Actually, that's an upside of being here: you get to know things before they happen..."

For National Symphony subscribers, prior notice of change was a sealed glossy pamphlet inscribed with the words "The Slatkin Era Unfolds". But change is about more than programming innovations, however dramatic and far-reaching they may be. Slatkin is committed to a total makeover of the orchestra and its environment. And it may yet prove advantageous that of all the orchestras he has worked with "back home", the NSO is the one he knows least well. Building character and attitude in an orchestra, shaping personnel without too much blood-letting, is a long process that is best started from scratch. Then again, how do you cultivate the sound of an orchestra, or gauge your progress, when the hall you perform in conveys such a distorted image of it. Twenty-five years on, the John F Kennedy Center's main concert hall is looking awful and sounding worse – that's Slatkin's view. He has pressed all along for a total refit, cosmetic and acoustical. And he's succeeded. It happens next year.

Between 11 and 13 October of this year, though, at a time when Washington's main thoroughfare (the mall extending from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial and beyond) normally begins disappearing under the seasonal carpet of leaves, a quilt now comprising some 45,000 panels – a mere handful of the lives lost to AIDS – was once more laid out



Yes, it's true. Leonard Slatkin, the new boss of Washington's National Symphony Orchestra, really does prefer American music – and he's about to give us the benefit of his experience.

By Edward Seckerson
Photo by Edward Sykes

where the eyes of the world would see it. It was this project – "The Names Project" – that moved the American composer John Corigliano to pen one of the most widely performed contemporary works of recent times: his Symphony No 1. A choral offshoot of that work – *Of Rage and Remembrance* (a reshaping of the symphony's third movement, "Gloria's Song") – serves as a moving preface to the symphony itself on Slatkin's first RCA recording with his new orchestra. The final pages, where members of the chorus who have lost friends remember them, chanting their names, is a devastating revision of John Cage's "chance" technique: the names change with each performance.

Neither the choice of repertoire nor the timing of this release leave one in any doubt as to where Slatkin chooses to nail his "primary colours". Next year he takes the Corigliano Symphony to 10 major American cities as part of his first national tour with the NSO. Doubtless there'll be those who'll question that choice, but all the more

reason for it. Another of his upcoming projects (one that follows on from this summer's Proms appearance, when he brought *Harlem* to Kensington) is a disc devoted to the music of Duke Ellington – "an African American composer from Washington DC". You reach out into a community via the repertoire you choose to play, he says.

And when you leave home to venture abroad, you take a little of home with you. If the promoters will let you. The repertoire list for next year's international tour contains only two European works: Sibelius's Second Symphony and the Beethoven "Emperor" Concerto. For the rest, it's William Bolcom's Fifth Symphony, Walter Piston's Second, Copland's Third, the William Bolcom Piano Concerto, and a new Percussion Concerto (for Evelyn Glennie) by Joseph Schwaninger. Smaller pieces by Ives, Gerstwin and Arthur Foote complete the roster.

But Slatkin is waging war that promoters – particularly in Germany – will be pressing for an Ives/Beethoven/

Sibelius package. "If I had my druthers," he says, "I'd go with Ives/Schwanninger/Copland 3 for London." So if that's not what we get, you'll know why. Incidentally, if I had my "druthers", Slatkin would be principal conductor (not just as in Washington DC). You reach out into a community via the repertoire you choose to play, he says.

Anyway, back to touring. "Look, it works the other way around, too. When your orchestras come to the US, we don't hear them play British music because our promoters don't want it! And yet the Berlin Philharmonic can play Brahms wherever they go... Ask yourself why it is that the Proms are so adventurous and successful? It's not just the prices, is it? It's trust." One hundred years' worth. And subsidy.

Which is where the BBC comes into its own. Tomorrow Slatkin presides over a major UK premiere that only the BBC –

in the present climate – could have made possible. William Bolcom's *State of Innocence and of Experience* is the first of a lifelong fascination. "I would say obsession," with the various writings and philosophies of the English poet, painter and engraver, William Blake. Bolcom calls it "A Musical Illumination of the Poems of William Blake" and its creation occupied him, at varying levels of intensity, over a period of some 26 years.

"Without Contraries is no progression," wrote Blake, and it's those "contraries" that dominate both the "songs" and their "settings" in this huge, all-embracing cantata. Just as Blake used his whole culture, past and present, high-flown and vernacular – from classical verse to street-song and doggerel – as sources for his many poetic styles, so too does Bolcom. The English madrigal sits cheek by jowl here with the American bar-room ballad, blues and soul, jazz and gospel rekindle their natural kinship, serialism rubs shoulders with the sweetly

consonant. So a gloomy song about the poor and underprivileged finds expression in gritty contemporary rock – unforgetting electric guitar to the fore – while "The Shepherd" is carefree American bucolic, western-style. Town and country, inner-city frowns and Arcadian smiles, misery and mirth. Contraries, conflicts and contradictions, different musics spilling into each other until finally a kind of universal harmony is culled from disharmony. A mad, glorious, inglorious, synthesis. A universal song.

Bolcom knows a thing or two about song, songsters, songfulness. He and his wife Joan Morris (who has sung in all but one performance of *Innocence and Experience* and does so again tomorrow night) were prime movers in the ragtime revival of the Sixties, and together they have toured and recorded compendious programmes drawn from two centuries of American song. So nothing here is parodistic. The unforgettable, Shaker-like "To mercy, pity, peace, and love" ("The Divine Image") has been touched with Stephen Foster's kindly hand, a wrong note here and there tempering innocent harmonies with the pain of experience.

So there you have it: innocence and experience. The fundamentals of human nature, Blake recognised that. He was, in the words of Alfred Kazin, "a peculiarly disturbed and disturbing prophet of the condition of modern man". Says Bolcom, "Blake tells us what we are and contrasts this with what we think we are... He realised that only when people face up to what they really are can they know joy. I think that joy, ultimately, is what my settings of Blake's poems are all about. I don't mean just happiness, I mean joy, the kind you find at the end of 'The Book of Job': after the worst things that could possibly happen to him, Job is left with joy because God finally tells him the truth about himself. That's it. In a nutshell. In truth there is joy."

And it's there in Bolcom's final setting, "A Divine Image". "Cepheus has a human heart/And jealousy a human face/Terror, the human form divine..." We should feel ashamed of the indictment but with a twist of supreme irony – a Mahlerian apothecary with a reggae beat – Bolcom makes us want to get up and dance.

Last words to Slatkin. His championship of Bolcom's work reached its own apothecary at New York's Carnegie Hall in 1993 with a 25-minute ovation and a place on just about everybody's "best of year" lists. "In our lifetime we've seen certain works – even works like Mahler Eight – move from being rare events to really quite regular occurrences. Make no mistake; this work restores to us the idea of the concert as 'an event'. A happening. And it's not going to happen again in a very long time." Don't say we didn't tell you. *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*, 7pm tomorrow, RFF, SBC, London SE1 (E11 unreserved: 0171-960 4242), and live on Radio 3. Slatkin's NSO recording of Corigliano's First Symphony is on RCA/BMG 09026 68450-2.

Oestrogen on the rampage



Jasper Rees on Television

In the week it was decided that the Lun King would not be appearing on the nation's advertising hoardings, *Panorama* (BBC1, Mon) reported on the growing phenomenon of violent women. One wife, who spends two weeks out of every four as if demonically possessed by her own menstrual cycle, took it out on the furniture. "We gut through three-piece suites like nobody's business," explained her besieged husband, who doubtless used the sofa as a defensive rampart. One woman scorned Bobbited her boyfriend with a Stanley knife: they showed you the photo of the reconstituted

member, just in case your mind's eye was unable to call up the relevant image of mutilation. Another avenger drizzled molten candle wax over her husband's middle regions. Again, to jump-start those with stalled imaginations, a reconstruction depicted the phallic candles succumbing to the blade.

Apparently, if things carry on this way, women will be as brutal as men within 20 years. Sewing the penis back on will presumably replace circumcision as the op most frequently performed on British males. It's an equality of sorts, but it will take women far longer to achieve parity across the full range of sins. The adulterer with the molten groin admitted that his wife was seeking retribution for finding out about "some tramp I had been seeing". His wife would probably say he was waxing hypocritical.

Elsewhere, the contest between oestrogen and testosterone was heating up. Both *Video Diaries* (BBC2, Sat) and *Soho Stories* (BBC2, Mon, Tues, Wed) found womankind in a state of unfettered lust as male

performers stripped down to their assets. Note how both strippers mined Greek legend for their stage names (Zeus and Troy Passion, though sadly no Philoctetes), as if harping after a mythical time of clear-cut gender roles when men were men and women washed the amphora.

Soho Stories deployed its favourite tactic of cross-cutting around the district to weave its narrative. Hence Troy Passion whipped up female hysteria as football hooligans (and the odd hooliganess) went ballistic outside in the street. Girls, went the heavily editorialised argument, are just as capable of mindless frenzy. This position was slightly complicated by the presence of Danny the transvestite singer, the series' lenisoholic centre of attention. When he threatened to throw bricks through the BBC's window if they lit his face too harshly, it was unclear whether the X or Y chromosomes were doing the talking.

Sharman (ITV, Mon) tried to have it both ways. Our stubbled private dick has one main squeeze per episode and this week's, a

where in the bedroom, turned out to be an undercover cop in the bedroom. It's not a difficult look to pull off. One of the girl gang who mugged Elizabeth Hurley told *Panorama* she mistook her for a prostitute. (Would have saved Hugh a car ride if she were.)

Sharman is an escapist bit of twaddle with the surreal twist that the escape route takes you to sard London. The dialogue, in unsubtitled Streamline, is only slightly less cacophonous than the clattering hackback of hand-guns. In the last shot of the show, the prostitute/policewoman stood legs astride in black PVCs and gunned down a drug baron, just as *Panorama* on the other side was delivering its findings about violent women.

The charm of *Crocodile Shoes*, about a Georgian pauper who became a rock star, lay in the naïveté of its hero, Jed Sheppard. *Crocodile Shoes II* (BBC1, Thurs) finds him still clueless in the face of industry chicane, and the smoke-screen is wearing a bit thin. Jimmy Nail, who has weirdly built a pop career on this fictional foundation, is inextricably

linked with the character, and yet with the credit he takes for creating, writing, starring, executive producing and composing, he will have difficulty persuading anyone that he's not a control freak dangerously hooked on wish-fulfilment. Rewriting himself as a love-ahle simpleton, methinks the lad doth protest too much.

More lads on *Never Mind the Buzzcocks* (BBC2, Tues), a pop quiz show cloned from its staidmate *They Think It's All Over*. Presenter Mark Lamarr has laboured hard to compose a distinctive sign-off (as in "My name's Nick Hancock", "this is me Clive Anderson..."), and he's come up with "I've been Mark Lamarr", which jags as much as the show it rounds off. The one original element is a game in which contestants see an ancient clip of a pop star at work and then have to pick out the much-aged icon from an identity parade. In two cases out of three, they got it wrong. There's a brilliantly cruel edge to the game's suggestion that identity is just a line in the sand.

After Redhead, silence



Robert Hanks on Radio

Bi-media is, as you may know, the new watchword in the BBC:

in the past, radio and television each had separate departments dealing with news and current affairs, drama, light entertainment and so forth. Under the Birt regime, the radio and television arms are to be handcuffed together, creating new, bigger departments covering both media.

Some people who work in radio welcome the change, as giving them access to the far larger resources available to television. Others fear that radio will always be the junior partner, will always lose out in the struggle for money, and that radio's distinctive strengths will be

obliterated. They're probably both right: radio will benefit, but only if it constantly fights its corner. It seems inevitable that, in a few years, radio will lose its distinctive culture.

One problem in arguing this case is that you can't quantify cultural change. If you send out just one correspondent to the next foreign hotspot, you only have to shell out for one set of airfares, one set of hotel bills, one set of phone-bills; a balance sheet doesn't show the benefits of a different point of view.

The other problem is that the bureaucratic change is confirming something that's already taking place: cost-cutting and low morale have meant that radio is starting to lose some of its confidence and sense of identity.

It may be a symptom of this that the excellent *Radio Lives* (Thursday, Radio 4), once dedicated to biographies of the great names of radio, has now expanded to include, in the words of its *Radio Times* billing, "the great names in radio, TV and beyond". True, last week we had a neat wars-and-all job on

Brian Redhead – possibly a bit heavy on the wars – but this week we had *Liberace*, whose connection with the medium didn't seem to extend far beyond an appearance on *Desert Island Discs*.

Considered by itself, this was vastly entertaining (and will do much, one hopes, to help the rehabilitation of Gerry Anderson, who was here as unobtrusively witty and sympathetic as we always knew he could be). Among other things, the programme quoted at length the Cassandra's celebrated attack on *Liberace* in the *Daily Mirror* – "a deadly, winking, smug, sniggering, chromium-plated, scent-impregnated, luminous, quivering, giggling, fruit-flavoured, mincing, ice-covered heap of mother love... the highest sentimental vomit of all time": a verdict that seemed, by and large, to stand up to the facts.

Still, the sequence seems to tell you something about radio's sense of its history, perhaps. Perhaps that after Redhead there are no more radio legends left, no more radio legends worth doing. I hope it's not true. I fear it may be.

This week at the National

Olivier Theatre

The Alchemist

by Ben Jonson

Tuesday 19 Nov 7.30pm & 9.15pm, Monday 20 Nov 7.30pm & 9.15pm

The Oedipus Plays

Oedipus at Colonus

by Sophocles

at a new production by Peter Dink

Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 Nov 7.30pm & 9.15pm

Lytton Theatre

John Gabriel Borkman

by Henrik Ibsen

Tuesday 19 Nov 7.30pm & 9.15pm, Wednesday 20 Nov 7.30pm & 9.15pm

Death of a Salesman

by Arthur Miller

Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 Nov 7.30pm & 9.15pm

War & Peace

by Leo Tolstoy

Gottesloe Theatre

Fair Ladies at a Game of Poem Cards

by Shakespeare

Tuesday 19 Nov 7.30pm & 9.15pm, Wednesday 20 Nov 7.30pm & 9.15pm

War & Peace

by Leo Tolstoy

Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 Nov 7.30pm & 9.15pm

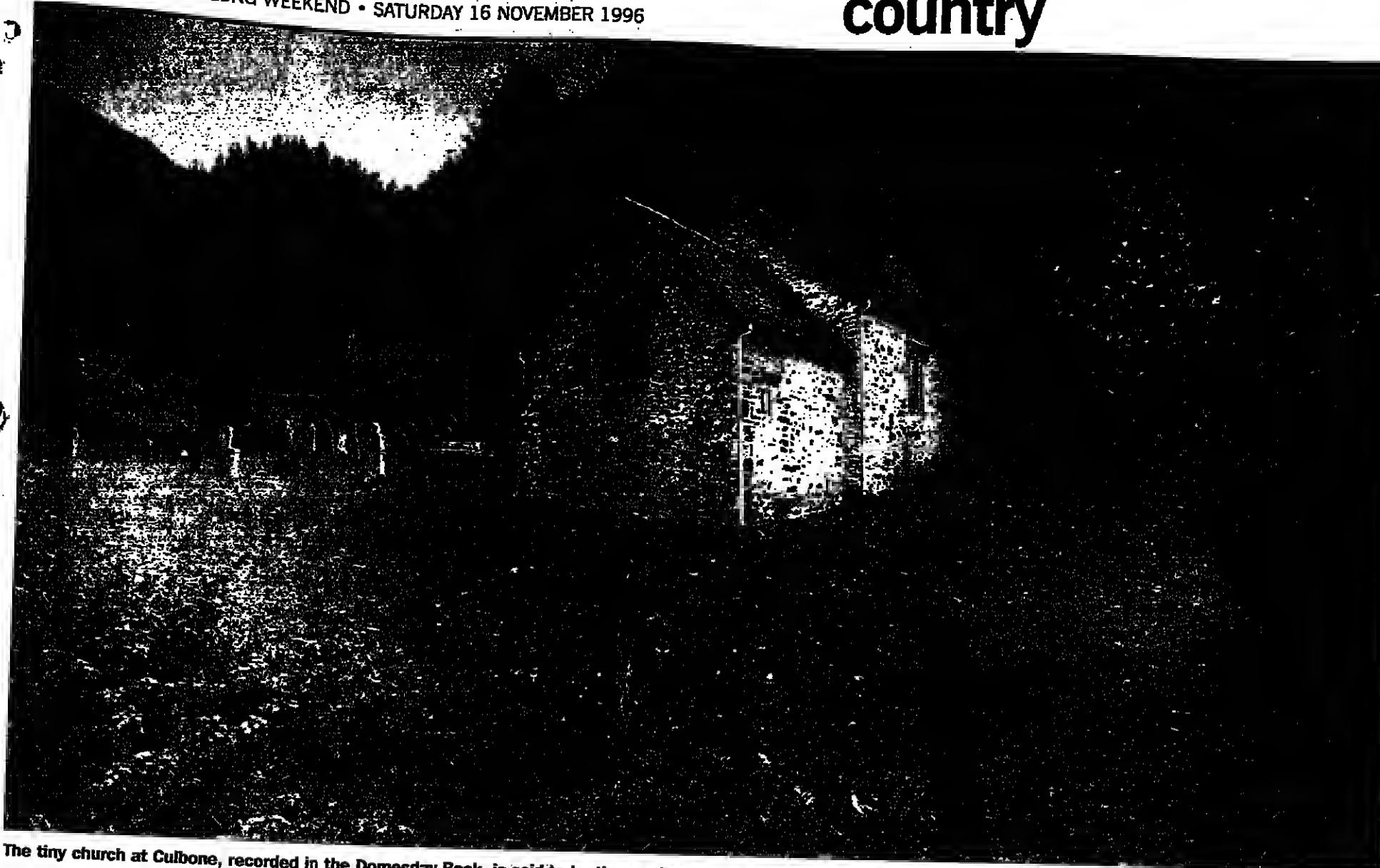
War & Peace

by Leo Tolstoy

NT Royal National Theatre

Box Office 0171-928 2252

First Call 0171-420 0000



The tiny church at Culbone, recorded in the Domesday Book, is said to be the smallest in England

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN LAWRENCE

Hidden hamlet of Exmoor

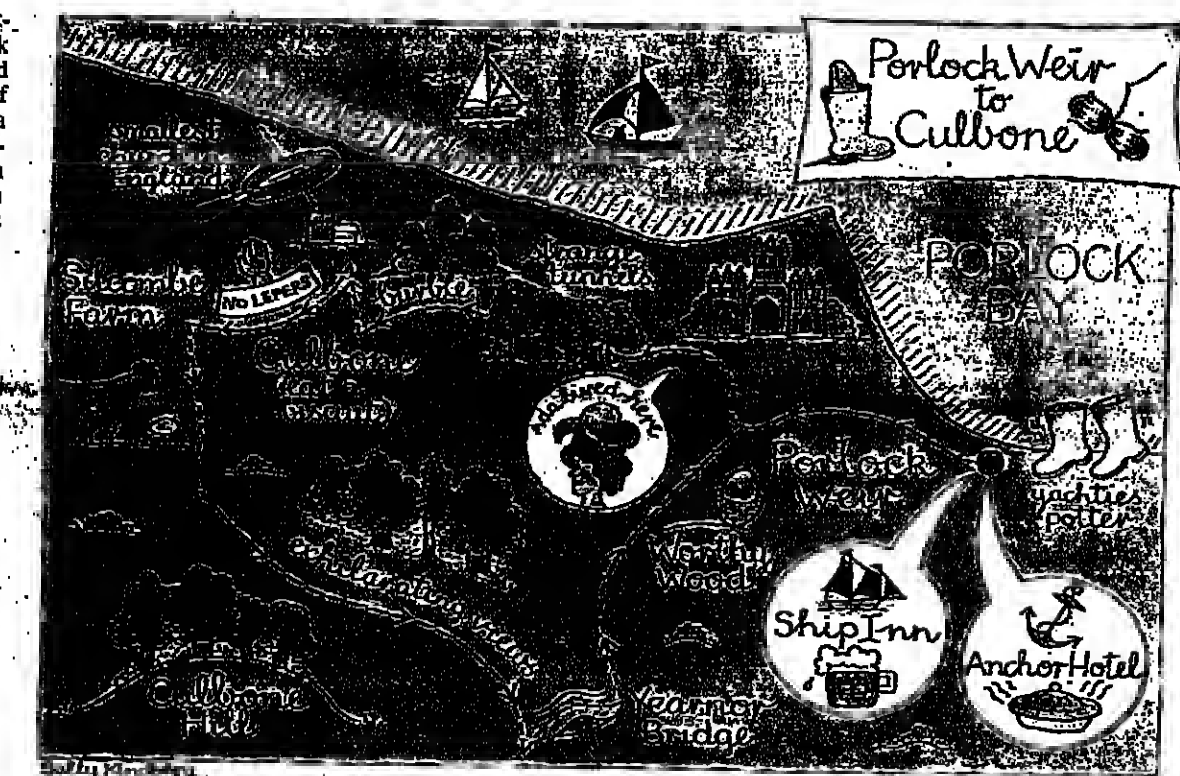
A coastal stroll from Porlock Weir to Culbone. By Hamish Scott

Hidden by steep hills on Exmoor's coastal fringe, Porlock Weir has somehow managed to survive the dangers of excessive prettiness. Old cottages, a hotel and a pub cluster round the harbour. Yellow-boated yachts potter on their boats, children chatter by on ponies and seriously kitted hikers argue over maps. Reached only by a narrow lane, the village has limited appeal to car-bound tourists but is a starting-point for those who like to venture off the Tarmac. Walkers, with a five-mile stroll and lunch to mind, can continue round the coast on a circuit through Culbone, an intriguing little hamlet far from any public road.

Starting from beyond the hotel, the path to Culbone climbs through open fields with distant views of the Welsh coast and briefly joins the toll road up to Exmoor before diverting into woodland by an ornate neo-Gothic gatehouse. Early in the 19th century the Earl of Lovelace built a home here for his bride, Byron's daughter Ada. A rambling romantic folly, Ashley Coombe ended as a private club of dubious repute before demolition in the Fifties. Now the path to Culbone leads through strange, dark tunnels that once shielded Ada's sensibilities from the distressing sight of tradesmen approaching her front door.

The climb is steep, up log-lined steps cut into the hillside. Long stretches of the path still wind beneath the shade of ancient oaks, with only hirsong and the murmur of the sea 500ft below intruding on the muffled silence.

The distant sound of running water deep within a hidden coombe announces the approach to Culbone. There is a drift of wood smoke in the air and glimpses of a trim churchyard between the trees. Even on arrival in



the hamlet, you find few signs of the present century.

Culbone has a strange and chequered history. The tiny church – the smallest in England – is recorded in Domesday Book and over the past thousand years the isolated settlement has been an outpost of the early Celtic church, a place of banishment, a leper colony and a Non-Conformist community. In the late 18th century it became a thriving village of foresters and charcoal burners. Now just a scattering of cottages remains.

From Culbone Church the coastal path continues towards County Gate. Just before Silcombe Farm, a narrow lane winds back towards Porlock, with exhilarating views from 900ft above sea level, before finally rejoining the toll road back to Porlock Weir. The slope is steep as the road snakes through hairpin bends down into the coombe, but a bridge across the stream gives access to a footpath through the woods that provides a safer route for walkers. Back in Porlock Weir, the Ship Inn and the Anchor Hotel stand together

on the harbour. Far from being rivals, they are under the same management: the grander looking Anchor doing all the food, with the Ship as a public bar. The hotel has a proper restaurant, with game and local sea-food, or simpler food at the rather formal bar. It's comfortable and friendly, but the Ship is a better place to quench the thirst after a long walk. The garden gives views across the bay to steep, wooded hills. Somewhere deep within those tangled branches lies Culbone; just two miles away, but in quite another world.

- From Porlock Weir car park continue past hotel and turn left on to signposted coastal path.
- Cross fields to Tarmac road, then turn right and continue 200yds to gatehouse.
- Just before gatehouse, bear right, down footpath signed to Culbone.
- Follow footpath signs to Silcombe.
- Just before Silcombe Farm, turn left on to lane.
- Follow lane for two miles and bear left on to toll road.
- Continue down road to footpath sign at Yearnor Bridge.
- Cross bridge, then turn left down woodland path.
- Follow path down to Tarmac road.
- Cross road on to footpath back to Porlock Weir.

Length of walk: five miles (about two hours)

On 2 November, in our walk from the Slad valley to Cranham we inadvertently directed readers along a track that is not a public footpath. Start north from Bull's Cross through Blackstable Wood. But do not, as stated, keep heading uphill. Half a mile before the end of the wood, fork left (downhill), over two lanes, across the fields to Clissold Farm. Keep on the signed footpath to Far End. There bear right into the beech woods now owned by the National Trust. Follow the track right through, until it rejoins the route we gave at Ebworth Farm.



Duff Hart-Davis Many Bewick swans are still in Holland, detained by a superabundance of their favourite pond weed

Will Abelhard and Pedro come home? To find out, children of all ages are anxiously awaiting *Heading South*, BBC2's three live programmes about the migration of Bewick swans, to be broadcast next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

On 8 February this year, at the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, the two big male birds were fitted with radios which transmit to satellites, in the hope of teaching scientists more about the swans' 2,500-mile journey to and from their breeding grounds in the Russian Arctic.

The radios – rectangular boxes 4ins long, with short aerials – were mounted between the birds' shoulder blades and secured with stretchy harnesses. They were programmed to come on the air every 13 days, then to transmit for eight hours continuously.

Pedro took off from Slimbridge at midday on 26 February, with his mate, Weaver. Three days later he was over northern Germany; by 13 March he had reached Jutland; then he went off the air, presumably because his battery had failed.

Abelhard proved a more reliable station. He did not leave Slimbridge until 17 March, but then set out with his mate, Mid-Off, in a party of 27 Bewicks and made rapid progress to the north east. By 10 April he was off the coast at Stanga, in Sweden: 11 days later satellites picked him up in the valley of the Kasari River in Estonia.

On 16 May he was north of Archangel, off the White Sea coast of Russia; 11 June found him at the mouth of the River Ona, 66°47' degrees north. On 24 June he reached the west coast of Kolguev Island, at 69°06' north, where a series of five good fixes suggested that he had settled down

there on a breeding site. One last message came through on 19 July, but a null reading from the activity sensor suggested that the device had fallen off.

Now the staff at Slimbridge are eagerly waiting to find out whether their two airborne research assistants have bred, and whether they will bring families back with them.

The particular fascination of Bewick swans is that they can be identified by the unique black-and-yellow patterns on their bills. Much has been learnt about them – not least, that they pair for life.

Pedro was identified as a cygnet at Welney in 1983; now, at 13, he is half-way through a normal lifespan. He spent his first 10 winters at Welney, then in 1993 appeared at Slimbridge with Weaver and three young. (Weaver had been identified as a cygnet in 1977).

Abelhard is also a regular visitor to Slimbridge: he is at least 12 years old, and has brought Mid-Off there for the past six winters.

Behind these bare facts lie several minor tragedies. Both males, it seems, must have had former mates. What happened to them?

As the BBC programmes will show, many hazards beset the migrants on their way to and from the tundra. They can be forced down by bad weather, fly into telegraph wires, die of lead-poisoning from shotgun pellets, or be killed by primitive hunters. The sad fact (revealed by x-rays) is that nearly a third of the birds that winter at Slimbridge are carrying lead shot.

Mild weather and persistent westerly winds have made this a late swan season. In a normal year there would be a couple of hundred Bewicks at Slimbridge by now, but there are scarcely half that, and many are still in Holland, detained by a superabundance of their favourite pond weed.

Imagine them on their way, flying at 50mph, in V-shaped skeins for maximum aerodynamic efficiency, five or six thousand feet above the surface of the earth. *Heading South* will doubtless capture some of the romance and magic of migration, but mysteries will remain.

How do Pedro and Abelhard retain an image of their far-off wintering grounds, all through the Arctic summer? How do they navigate during their two-month passage? And how do they time their arrival to come in at night, causing a tremendous clamour among travellers who have already reached their journey's end?

Once a dog has tasted blood

What happens if your family pet becomes a sheep killer? By Daniel Butler

Bracken is on death row. Our pet has been judged a killer. It remains for us to dispose of him. We find ourselves crushed between our squeamish urban upbringing and the realities of our new rural lifestyle. Our dog is both a gentle creature who plays with our toddler, and a hunter with the instincts of a wolf.

Bracken is a lurcher, a mongrel running dog, born to catch rabbits and hares. When we got him he was small enough to nestle in my palm. He grew fast, and was greyhound-sized when we left the rat race for our slice of Welsh self-sufficient heaven. He came into his own when our son, Jack, learnt to walk, and used him as an animated Zimmer frame. Now he is now the two-year-old's best friend – endlessly patient as he is hauled backwards by the tail, forced to sit on a whim or made to jump obstacle courses on barking command.

Nor has he been short of admirers among our Welsh neighbours. In his first summer he won two rosettes at agricultural shows and prompted respectful nudges by setting about numnahs, rabbits and squirrels with gusto. All this was transformed last week, however, when the local farmer found a partially-eaten ewe near our house.

Two others survived with deep gashes to their back legs. Although no one witnessed the crime, the circumstantial evidence pointed to Bracken. The culprit was a big dog – the bite marks indicated this – and the attack took place miles from anyone but us. If this weren't enough, for the first time in three years, the previous day we had seen Bracken playfully herding sheep in the self-same field.

"Once a sheep killer, always a sheep killer," was the farmer's reaction. "You'll never cure him. Put him down, the quicker the better – I'll do it, if you want."

Anywhere else, detection, verdict and sentence might have been more measured, but this is rural Wales, where 11 million sheep are the backbone of the economy. Anything that poses a threat to them is shot or poisoned, while anyone harbouring their enemies is ostracised. Clear, decisive action was needed. But this was Bracken, and we were not prepared to surrender him meekly to summary justice.

So we ran through the alternatives. Could he be retrained, chaperoned and muzzled? This was ruled out. Almost everyone, from National Farmers' Union to lurcher rescue



centres, says it is impossible to put the genie back into the bottle once a dog tastes blood. And the local farmers are certainly convinced of this, so any belief that he could be retrained was immaterial.

As news of this – most heinous of canine sins – spreads, sooner or later he will be shot if he remains here. Until then the blame for every dead sheep in a 20-mile radius will be laid at our door. That leaves us two

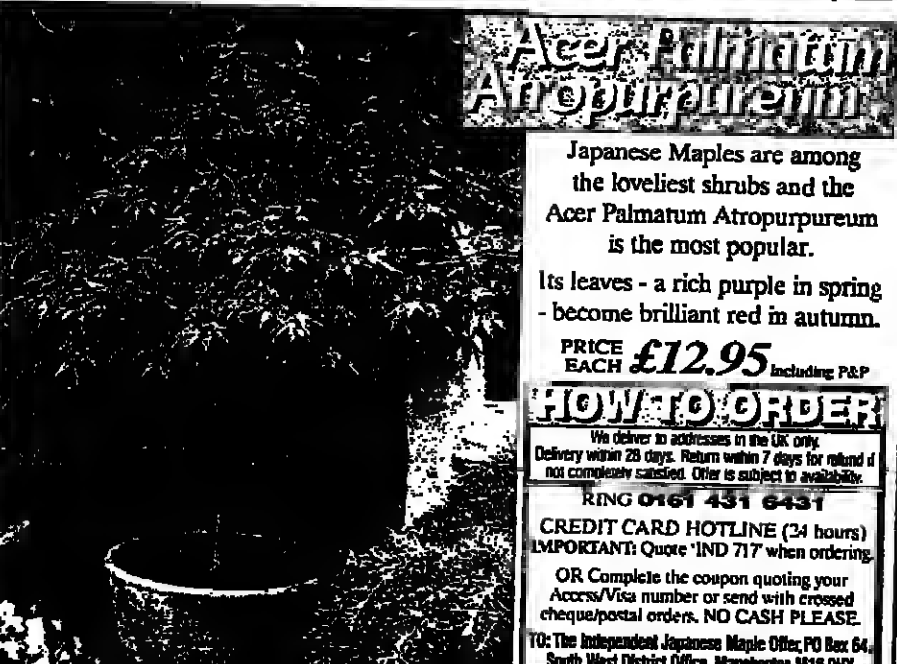
choices: give away our son's best friend, or sacrifice him on the altar of local opinion.

Worried, but not yet frantic, we rang round every acquaintance in non-sheep-farming parts where there was the slightest hope of a home. "He is young, but bousetrained," we said in our pitch. "Wonderful with children, a good traveller – and you know how handsome he is."

There were no takers, although several hesitated. Some were put off by the thought of Bracken's daily exercise, others said he was too big, while another confessed to pregnancy and to being daunted by sharing what used to be a spacious flat with just one new arrival, let alone two. An ex-girlfriend and confirmed vegetarian came closest. She could cope with everything, except Bracken killing squirrels or rabbits in her local park.

So for the foreseeable future Bracken is confined to barracks. I informed the farmer of our decision to rehouse rather than execute the dog. To my surprise, he seemed positively relieved. "I once had to shoot one of my own dogs and I still regret it," he said. "No one likes to see a dog killed. You're doing something about it, that's the main thing."

THE INDEPENDENT



Japanese Maples are among the loveliest shrubs and the Acer Palmatum Atropurpureum is the most popular.

Its leaves – a rich purple in spring – become brilliant red in autumn.

PRICE EACH £12.95 including P&P

HOW TO ORDER

We deliver to addresses in the UK only. Delivery within 28 days. Return within 7 days for refund if not completely satisfied. Order is subject to availability.

RING 0161 431 6431

CREDIT CARD HOTLINE (24 hours)

IMPORTANT: Quote 'IND 717' when ordering.

OR Complete the coupon quoting your Access/Visa number or send with crossed cheque/postal order. NO CASH PLEASE.

TO: The Independent Japanese Maple Office, PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester M10 0ST

SEND TO: The Independent Japanese Maple Office, PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester M10 0ST

PLEASE SEND ME: ☐ Japanese Maple(s) @ £12.95 each

I enclose my cheque/PO No. valid £ 070000 & made payable to Newspaper Publishing Ltd 717 (name & address on back please)

Or debit my ACCESS/Visa account by the amount of £

Name

Address

Postcode

Signed

Expiry Date

Please tick the box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Newspaper Publishing or from companies approved by Newspaper Publishing PLC

Registered in England No. 103067

IND 717

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a coastal town. On the left, a large windmill stands prominently. In the center, a tall, pointed church spire rises above the town's buildings. The foreground shows a body of water with a small boat. The background is a dark, textured sky.

PHOTOGRAPH: NIKLA HARRIS

FAX: 0171 293 2501

0171 251 0770

STERLING		DOLLAR		D-MARK
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot
US	1.9824	1.9820		0.9886
Canada	2.1194	16-10	164-150	1.0073
France	2.5110	6-05	184-284	3-3784
Germany	4.4944	107-183	222-222	1.0022 59
Italy	2584-4	31-45	158-155	1.0012
Japan	185-25	47-07	278-272	147-147
SEAL	1.3091	21-18	60-61	11-18
Belgium	51.7396	15-10	300-295	5-16
Denmark	16.4610	10-13	300-295	5-16
Netherlands	2.8155	76-68	229-212	1.0000
Norway	1.0020	5-1	70-70	1.0000
Ireland	0.5251	10-13	300-295	5-16
Spain	211-50	12-21	31-31	1.0000
Sweden	11.1055	15-14	44-33	1.0000
Switzerland	2.1198	80-72	222-222	1.0000
Thailand	2.0915	1-10	1.2500	14-14
Hong Kong	12.881	83-62	240-185	1.0000
Malaysia	4.2029	0-0	0-0	1.0000
Singapore	2.2331	0-0	0-0	1.0000
South Africa	0.2326	0-0	0-0	1.0000
Singapore	2.2324	0-0	0-0	1.0000

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	19385	0.988	Nigeria	183.996	80.3290
Brazil	17,800	10.6213	Oman	0.0403	0.2697
Canada	1.7145	1.0035	Pakistan	66.988	45.9796
France	6.5694	3.3693	Philippines	43.7912	28.3220
Spain	5.9387	3.4061	Portugal	265.727	193.83
Egypt	7.5200	4.5303	Qatar	8.0000	4.8410
Germany	955.37	777.10	Russia	9125.94	5403.00
Greece	356.617	236.280	South Africa	7.7000	4.7000
India	59.5438	36.0000	Taiwan	45.7675	27.5000
Indonesia	0.4078	0.3589	UK	1.1218	3.4940

Note: Forward rates quoted high to low are at six discount (bank/bank) over spot rates. Some forward rates may be at a premium (bank to bank rates). * Dollar rates are indicated on request. For the Dollar rate on the Dollar rate, please refer to the Dollar rate on the Dollar rate.

Tourist Rates as of 10/12/94

C. Bays		C. Bays		C. Bays	
Australia (Dallas)	6,040.00	France (France)	1,910.00	New Zealand (Doha)	2,277.00
Australia (Chicago)	17,280.00	Germany (France)	2,650.00	Portugal (Doha)	12,236.00
Canada (Dallas)	50,320.00	Germany (Germany)	267,000.00	Portugal (Europe)	246,900.00
Canada (Chicago)	2,117.00	Hong Kong (Doha)	12,550.00	Spain (France)	204,800.00
Cyprus (Dallas)	6,730.00	Israel (Paris)	8,707.00	Sweden (Doha)	10,840.00
Dominican (Doha)	2,370.00	Italy (Italy)	347,000.00	Switzerland (France)	2,743.00
Holland (Dallas)	5,250.00	Japan (Doha)	125,400.00	Turkey (Doha)	1,954,000.00
Holland (Chicago)	8,720.00		8,720.00	United States (Dallas)	1,230.00

Interest Rates as at 14/11/88

UK		Governor		US		Japan	
Base	6.0%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.75%	Bank	0.50%
Overseas		Lombard	4.00%	Discount	5.00%	Boards	2.50%
Intervention	3.20%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.25%	Capital	3.00%
Italy		Prime	4.75%	Spills		Subordinated	
Discount	7.5%	Discount	5.00%	10-Day Repo	8.75%	Debt	1.00%
Netherlands		Discount		Swaps			

Advances	2.50%	Discount	3.25%	Prime (Year)	6.00%	Libor 3M	5.125%		
Bond Yields as at 10/1/96									
Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %	Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %
UK	7%	7.30	7.5%	7.38	Netherlands	6.5%	6.78	6%	6.71
US	6.9%	5.87	7.1%	6.89	Spain	10.15%	8.48	10.15%	7.28
Japan	5.51%	5.92	3%	2.68	Italy	8%	8.7%	8%	8.08
Australia	6.1%	6.75	6%	6.25	Brazil	15%	12.0	7%	5.68
Germany	6.25%	6.14	6.25%	5.85	Sweden	13%	12.08	6%	7.14
France	6.5%	7.20	6.25%	5.83	SGD/007	6%	5.08	7%	6.04

	Overnight	2 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Interbank	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4
Stetbank Cdn	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4
Local Authority Cdn	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4
Chicago Market Dept	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4
Treasury Bills (Bids)	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4
CDs (Cdn)	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4
REX/1-Year Term	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4

Contract	Settlement price	High/Low for day	Est.Costs Settled	Open Settled
Long Oil	108.25	110.04	108.14	138913
Gasman Oct '90	102.50	103.10	103.00	177700
3 Mth. Standing	122.25	122.80	122.50	67755
3 Mth. Standing	124.45	124.90	124.20	3600
3 Mth. Standing	38.51	38.25	38.48	327271
3 Mth. Standing	92.23	92.26	92.73	35957

3 Mth Euribor	(Mar 97)	96.03	96.54	96.78	91876	187790
3 Mth Euribor	(Mar 98)	96.21	96.25	96.75	10890	69189
3 Mth Euribor	(Mar 97)	96.46	96.53	95.42	16752	65254
3 Mth Euribor	(Mar 98)	96.62	96.35	96.35	6107	6107
3 Mth Euribor	(Mar 99)	96.00	96.04	27.95	9598	23064
3 Mth ECU	(Mar 97)	97.98	98.01	97.98	8876	34825
3 Mth ECU	(Dec 95)	95.25	95.35	95.62	889	7890
3 Mth ECU	(Dec 96)	95.19	95.31	95.81	5716	7716
FTSE 100	(Dec 95)	3855.0	3859.0	5019.0	15378	57442
FTSE 250	(Dec 96)	4419.0	4419.0	4419.0	2	5193

Life FTSE Index Option 14/7/98

Settlement price	3022.00	Shipping offer price				Contract
Series	3850	3900	3950	4000	4050	Contract
Nov	720	241	122	073		
Dec	11730	8146	5067	2789		
Jan	14045	10782	7894	5175		
Feb	15665	12463	109104	79150		

Commodities

WROUGHT IRON, STEEL & ALUMINUM SHAPES, SHAPES, SHAPES				LARGE STOCKS		
Shoring	Cover	3rd cut	Volume		chg	
Northrup Hwy	1600-8	1432-5-4	80533	100705	+	800
Northrup Hwy	1200-8	1200-8	8718	26800	-	100
Copper A	2322-4	2322-4	80218	100705	-	600
Lead	720-4	720-1	8025	11625	-	400
Nobel	7000-40	7150-40	11802	42008	+	800
Rein	3040-5	3060-5	4804	5000	-	100
Zinc	1040-5-13	1040-5	14226	80475	-	315
Shoring Connectors			870			
Shoring steel	1 8002	1 6000	111 80			

Stock volumes & change
reported as of Tue 12 AM '96

NO. 101 11.15.95

per lb. for		C		Colony		A		B	
Platinum	598.25	232.00	Brilliant	350	240	Knights	575.35	229.22	
Piedmont	220.50	72.75	Brilliant 5 or	201	121	Score	89.67	53.60	
Silver slip	489.25	23.55	Brilliant 25 cc	105	64	Nobles	394.00	231.91	
Gold Bull.	355.00	250.11	Brilliant 10 cc	53	32	Maple Leaf	382.35	232.04	

*Shipping, Storage & Postage

AGRICULTURAL as at 14/11/98

Cocoa		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Pulses	
LYFFE	CHANCE	LYFFE	SHAWNE	LYFFE	CHANCE	LYFFE	CHANCE	ATA	CHANCE
Dec/89	182	Nov	1500	Nov	81.35	Nov	62.00		

Bkt	Size	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Vol	10000	Vol	2642	Vol	62	Vol	78	Vol	79	Vol	18	Vol	23
Wheat Storage Freight Liffe Cans 1200 Prices													
LFFE	Storage	LFFE	Storage	LFFE	Cans	CO#0#	H-Lo	Self					
Dec	\$04.50	Oct	1440	Jan	\$5.50								
Mar	\$03.70	Vol	1640	Jan	\$5.50	Dec	\$72.50-\$89.75	\$72.25					
May	\$04.40	Vol	507	Mar	\$7.00	Mar	\$75.25-\$72.00	\$74.75					
Vol	1821	Indian	1021	Vol	600	May	\$79.25-\$76.50	\$79.00					
Other Soya (Agriculture) as at 1471/100													
Nov.	\$04.00/100	Flour	187.01	Nov	\$04.00								

[illegible][illegible]

Stock	Mid	Offer	Stock	Mid	Offer
Affinity Equity Ser A	267.5	281.8	London & General Managed Accoun	99.3	101.1
Affinity International Ser A	212.5	230.0	London & Macqueron Flexible Acc		
Affinity International Ser B	174.5	177.0	London Equity	99.5	100.5
Affinity International Managed	142.2	148.8	London Managed Bond Acc	101.2	106.1
Affinity International Equity	136.8	135.1			
Affinity International Equity	136.8	135.1			

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Golden Rule Life Insurance	478	500	520	540	560	580	600	620	640	660	680	700	720	740	760	780	800	820	840	860	880	900	920	940	960	980	1000	1020	1040	1060	1080	1100	1120	1140	1160	1180	1200	1220	1240	1260	1280	1300	1320	1340	1360	1380	1400	1420	1440	1460	1480	1500	1520	1540	1560	1580	1600	1620	1640	1660	1680	1700	1720	1740	1760	1780	1800	1820	1840	1860	1880	1900	1920	1940	1960	1980	2000	2020	2040	2060	2080	2100	2120	2140	2160	2180	2200	2220	2240	2260	2280	2300	2320	2340	2360	2380	2400	2420	2440	2460	2480	2500	2520	2540	2560	2580	2600	2620	2640	2660	2680	2700	2720	2740	2760	2780	2800	2820	2840	2860	2880	2900	2920	2940	2960	2980	3000	3020	3040	3060	3080	3100	3120	3140	3160	3180	3200	3220	3240	3260	3280	3300	3320	3340	3360	3380	3400	3420	3440	3460	3480	3500	3520	3540	3560	3580	3600	3620	3640	3660	3680	3700	3720	3740	3760	3780	3800	3820	3840	3860	3880	3900	3920	3940	3960	3980	4000	4020	4040	4060	4080	4100	4120	4140	4160	4180	4200	4220	4240	4260	4280	4300	4320	4340	4360	4380	4400	4420	4440	4460	4480	4500	4520	4540	4560	4580	4600	4620	4640	4660	4680	4700	4720	4740	4760	4780	4800	4820	4840	4860	4880	4900	4920	4940	4960	4980	5000	5020	5040	5060	5080	5100	5120	5140	5160	5180	5200	5220	5240	5260	5280	5300	5320	5340	5360	5380	5400	5420	5440	5460	5480	5500	5520	5540	5560	5580	5600	5620	5640	5660	5680	5700	5720	5740	5760	5780	5800	5820	5840	5860	5880	5900	5920	5940	5960	5980	6000	6020	6040	6060	6080	6100	6120	6140	6160	6180	6200	6220	6240	6260	6280	6300	6320	6340	6360	6380	6400	6420	6440	6460	6480	6500	6520	6540	6560	6580	6600	6620	6640	6660	6680	6700	6720	6740	6760	6780	6800	6820	6840	6860	6880	6900	6920	6940	6960	6980	7000	7020	7040	7060	7080	7100	7120	7140	7160	7180	7200	7220	7240	7260	7280	7300	7320	7340	7360	7380	7400	7420	7440	7460	7480	7500	7520	7540	7560	7580	7600	7620	7640	7660	7680	7700	7720	7740	7760	7780	7800	7820	7840	7860	7880	7900	7920	7940	7960	7980	8000	8020	8040	8060	8080	8100	8120	8140	8160	8180	8200	8220	8240	8260	8280	8300	8320	8340	8360	8380	8400	8420	8440	8460	8480	8500	8520	8540	8560	8580	8600	8620	8640	8660	8680	8700	8720	8740	8760	8780	8800	8820	8840	8860	8880	8900	8920	8940	8960	8980	9000	9020	9040	9060	9080	9100	9120	9140	9160	9180	9200	9220	9240	9260	9280	9300	9320	9340	9360	9380	9400	9420	9440	9460	9480	9500	9520	9540	9560	9580	9600	9620	9640	9660	9680	9700	9720	9740	9760	9780	9800	9820	9840	9860	9880	9900	9920	9940	9960	9980	10000
Golden Rule Life Insurance	478	500	520	540	560	580	600	620	640	660	680	700	720	740	760	780	800	820	840	860	880	900	920	940	960	980	1000	1020	1040	1060	1080	1100	1120	1140	1160	1180	1200	1220	1240	1260	1280	1300	1320	1340	1360	1380	1400	1420	1440	1460	1480	1500	1520	1540	1560	1580	1600	1620	1640	1660	1680	1700	1720	1740	1760	1780	1800	1820	1840	1860	1880	1900	1920	1940	1960	1980	2000	2020	2040	2060	2080	2100	2120	2140	2160	2180	2200	2220	2240	2260	2280	2300	2320	2340	2360	2380	2400	2420	2440	2460	2480	2500	2520	2540	2560	2580	2600	2620	2640	2660	2680	2700	2720	2740	2760	2780	2800	2820	2840	2860	2880	2900	2920	2940	2960	2980	3000	3020	3040	3060	3080	3100	3120	3140	3160	3180	3200	3220	3240	3260	3280	3300	3320	3340	3360	3380	3400	3420	3440	3460	3480	3500	3520	3540	3560	3580	3600	3620	3640	3660	3680	3700	3720	3740	3760	3780	3800	3820	3840	3860	3880	3900	3920	3940	3960	3980	4000	4020	4040	4060	4080	4100	4120	4140	4160	4180	4200	4220	4240	4260	4280	4300	4320	4340	4360	4380	4400	4420	4440	4460	4480	4500	4520	4540	4560	4580	4600	4620	4640	4660	4680	4700	4720	4740	4760	4780	4800	4820	4840	4860	4880	4900	4920	4940	4960	4980	5000	5020	5040	5060	5080	5100	5120	5140	5160	5180	5200	5220	5240	5260	5280	5300	5320	5340	5360	5380	5400	5420	5440	5460	5480	5500	5520	5540	5560	5580	5600	5620	5640	5660	5680	5700	5720	5740	5760	5780	5800	5820	5840	5860	5880	5900	5920	5940	5960	5980	6000	6020	6040	6060	6080	6100	6120	6140	6160	6180	6200	6220	6240	6260	6280	6300	6320	6340	6360	6380	6400	6420	6440	6460	6480	6500	6520	6540	6560	6580	6600	6620	6640	6660	6680	6700	6720	6740	6760	6780	6800	6820	6840	6860	6880	6900	6920	6940	6960	6980	7000	7020	7040	7060	7080	7100	7120	7140	7160	7180	7200	7220	7240	7260	7280	7300	7320	7340	7360	7380	7400	7420	7440	7460	7480	7500	7520	7540	7560	7580	7600	7620	7640	7660	7680	7700	7720	7740	7760	7780	7800	7820	7840	7860	7880	7900	7920	7940	7960	7980	8000	8020	8040	8060	8080	8100	8120	8140	8160	8180	8200	8220	8240	8260	8280	8300	8320	8340	8360	8380	8400	8420	8440	8460	8480	8500	8520	8540	8560	8580	8600	8620	8640	8660	8680	8700	8720	8740	8760	8780	8800	8820	8840	8860	8880	8900	8920	8940	8960	8980	9000	9020	9040	9060	9080	9100	9120	9140	9160	9180	9200	9220	9240	9260	9280	9300	9320	9340	9360	9380	9400	9420	9440	9460	9480	9500	9520	9540	9560	9580	9600	9620	9640	9660	9680	9700	9720	9740	9760	9780	9800	9820	9840	9860	9880	9900	9920	9940	9960	9980	10000
Golden Rule Life Insurance	478	500	520	540	560	580	600	620	640	660	680	700	720	740	760	780	800	820	840	860	880	900	920	940	960	980	1000	1020	1040	1060	1080	1100	1120	1140	1160	1180	1200	1220	1240	1260	1280	1300	1320	1340	1360	1380	1400	1420	1440	1460	1480	1500	1520	1540	1560	1580	1600	1620	1640	1660	1680	1700	1720	1740	1760	1780	1800	1820	1840	1860	1880	1900	1920	1940	1960	1980	2000	2020	2040	2060	2080	2100	2120	2140	2160	2180	2200	2220	2240	2260	2280	2300	2320	2340	2360	2380	2400	2420	2440	2460	2480	2500	2520	2540	2560	2580	2600	2620	2640	2660	2680	2700	2720	2740	2760	2780	2800	2820	2840	2860	2880	2900	2920	2940	2960	2980	3000	3020	3040	3060	3080	3100	3120	3140	3160	3180	3200	3220	3240	3260	3280	3300	3320	3340	3360	3380	3400	3420	3440	3460	3480	3500	3520	3540	3560	3580	3600	3620	3640	3660	3680	3700	3720	3740	3760	3780	3800	3820	3840	3860	3880	3900	3920	3940	3960	3980	4000	4020	4040	4060	4080	4100	4120	4140	4160	4180	4200	4220	4240	4260	4280	4300	4320	4340	4360	4380	4400	4420	4440	4460	4480	4500	4520	4540	4560	4580	4600	4620	4640	4660	4680	4700	4720	4740	4760	4780	4800	4820	4840	4860	4880	4900	4920	4940	4960	4980	5000	5020	5040	5060	5080	5100	5120	5140	5160	5180	5200	5220	5240	5260	5280	5300	5320	5340	5360	5380	5400	5420	5440	5460	5480	5500	5520	5540	5560	5580	5600	5620	5640	5660	5680	5700	5720	5740	5760	5780	5800	5820	5840	5860	5880	5900	5920	5940	5960	5980	6000	6020	6040	6060	6080	6100	6120	6140	6160	6180	6200	6220	6240	6260	6280	6300	6320	6340	6360	6380	6400	6420	6440	6460	6480	6500	6520	6540	6560	6580	6600	6620	6640	6660	6680	6700	6720	6740	6760	6780	6800	6820	6840	6860	6880	6900	6920	6940	6960	6980	7000	7020	7040	7060	7080	7100	7120	7140	7160	7180	7200	7220	7240	7260	7280	7300	7320	7340	7360	7380	7400	7420	7440	7460	7480	7500	7520	7540	7560	7580	7600	7620	7640	7660	7680	7700	7720	7740	7760	7780	7800	7820	7840	7860	7880	7900	7920	7940	7960	7980	8000	8020	8040	8060	8080	8100	8120	8140	8160	8180	8200	8220	8240	8260	8280	8300	8320	8340	8360	8380	8400	8420	8440	8460	8480	8500	8520	8540	8560	8580	8600	8620	8640	8660	8680	8700	8720	8740	8760	8780	8800	8820	8840	8860	8880	8900	8920	8940	8960	8980																																																			

have returned (Spain) to Soviet Managers' Forum	122.8 103.2	124.8 104.4	24 175
--	----------------	----------------	-----------

Legal & General International Acc	912.4	944.7	700	Handwritten	269.4	262.3
			100	Managed	334.2	311.0



Stephen Pinner: 'You get low' PETER MACDIARMID

Business was not so secure

My worst mistake

Stockbroker
Stephen Pinner

"In 1987, I was working for Hoare Govett, which was going through a change of ownership at the time, and I had an idea for what I thought could be a great new business."

I had been to America, and seen the way stockbrokers there used independent companies to do all their back-room work. The brokers themselves would go out into the market and buy the shares. Then they handed the settlement work and all the admin over to somebody else. I thought there could be a big demand for a similar service here, so I decided I wanted to set up an independent UK securities clearing firm.

I got hugely excited about this idea, and soon found myself surrounded by teams of professional advisers and other experts. We went on to

draw up the business plans and everything else. I was soon persuaded that we needed £3m to get this thing off the ground, which we consequently went out and raised. At that time, it wasn't difficult to raise capital.

Security Settlements plc was launched in the week of the 1987 Crash. We thought at first that we'd only need two or three client firms to make it all work but, when the Crash came, it was clear we were going to need a lot more. In the end, the business did hang together, but it was extremely hard.

Looking back, having all that cash there from day one taught me a bloody good lesson. I could go out and recruit very high-quality people knowing that I'd got the capital base to support it, even though the income wasn't there yet. But knowing you've

got that kind of facility at the bank all the time can really take your eye off the ball.

Instead of going out and buying just the space we initially needed, we took the decision to buy 16,000 or 17,000 square feet outside London and 2,500 square feet for a nice City office, because we could afford to do it. The business plan told us it was all going to come good, and not to worry.

As a result of all this, everyone became a bit too comfortable and sometimes we missed the main chance. It was impossible in some cases to motivate the staff. They knew we had good reserves and often performed as if we had a long-established business and a bottomless pit of cash.

Consequently, we had to raise another £1.5m within the first 18 months of opera-

tion, and we were always chasing capital. Eventually, the main investors got rather tired of it all, and the company was sold on.

A few years later, when the time came to start City Deal Services, I did so with just £50,000, which was the minimum capital you had to have at that time. Like all start-up businesses, City Deal didn't make a profit straight away, but it very quickly became profitable to the point where, in the last year before acquisition, it generated a profit of about £800,000.

I can laugh about it now, but it took me about three years to get the Security Settlements thing out of my system. You get fairly low, you feel disappointed, and then you get real. I've had all those emotions. Now, if I was starting a business again, and I had a choice of starting with £3m

or starting with £50,000, I'd go the lower way every time. There is an argument that, once you've got a business plan that says you need a certain amount of capital - no matter what the number is and no matter how scientific you've been - you should double it. These days, I'd prefer to go the other way.

If you're starting from scratch, with no involvement from any of the major entities, I would certainly want to have enough capital, but not enough to let day-to-day profitability come too far down the line. The only thing that makes a business tick is people having a focus on the amount of money it's generating. That's the key."

Stephen Pinner is managing director of City Deal Services, execution-only stockbrokers. He was talking to Paul Slade.

Hey big spender! Are you a Geordie?

People from Tyneside spend £3.15 a week on the National Lottery. Clifford German asks why

Did you know that Geordies gamble an average £3.15 a week on the National Lottery, a good 25 per cent above the national average, and they are followed by residents of the Border TV region, who spend an average of £2.75 a week? Exactly why this should be so is clearly not a simple question, since Geordies may be financially insecure, but the rural borderers should have less to worry about in that respect than most other regions.

At the other end of the scale, the inhabitants of South-west England, from Dorset down to Cornwall, spend just £2.03 a week, which may have something to do with the remains of a non-conformist tradition. But this will not explain why south of Englanders are the next lowest spenders with £2.27 each, or why relatively affluent Londoners spend only £2.33, and the curvy Lowland Scots spend £2.47 and the even canner Highlanders £2.38.

One day, these will be written about the mentality of National Lottery players. The basic appeal of the lottery is glaringly obvious. Although the odds are among the poorest available to gamblers, with 50 per cent of the weekly stake siphoned off by good causes, the Treasury, ticket-sellers and the lottery's operators, the lure of a multi-million pound jackpot is irresistible, however long the odds.

The widespread national sense of insecurity nowadays means that the prospect of a jackpot win which will, at a stroke, abolish all the winner's worries about unemployment, and the need for life insurance, health insurance, mortgages, pensions and long-term care plans is even more attractive than it would have been in the palmy days of full employment and the all-embracing welfare state.

But regional and social differences among punters are still very strong. Sociologists would say that the fact that the biggest spenders on the National Lottery are in social class C2, is exactly what we might expect. They are members of the social class which statistics show has most to fear from unemployment, but currently has some spare cash to gamble with.

The next highest spenders are in Classes D and E, who toss away £2.48 a week, but that could simply be a function of them having even more insecurity but a little less spare cash. Class C1 spends £2.42 a week, and classes A and B just £2.32, although whether this reflects the lesser pressure on the better off to try and escape from insecurity or a better understanding of the odds against winning is a sensitive issue.

Age groups are equally revealing. The lottery habit is least prevalent among young adults aged between 16 and 24, but remains relatively constant among the rest of the working population, (although there is a slight peak in the 45-54 age group) and dips slightly among pensioners. It probably means that the young and the old have less money to spare than the middle age groups. But could it mean the young still think they can make it on their own, pensioners are resigned to their lot in life, and it is the middle-aged who are most desperate to escape from their lifestyle?



the ultimate Tracking PEP?

Now with Union's Growth Tracking PEP

- 25% invested internationally
- 75% invested in the UK
- Monthly savings from only £50 per month
- Lump sum investments from £1000

0345 73 83 93 (local call rates)
9am and 6pm, 7 days a week.
Call and return it (no stamp required) to:
NORWICH UNION INVESTMENTS, PO Box 142, Norwich NR1 3BL.

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Data that you provide may be used by Norwich Union group companies, your financial adviser or other relevant organisations for marketing purposes such as market research and contacting you regarding your future insurance and investment needs.

NORWICH UNION

For your protection all telephone calls will be recorded. The value of and income from PEPs may fall and you may not get back the amount invested. Funds invested abroad may alter with exchange rate fluctuations. Information/advice offered will only relate to Norwich Union products.

No one protects more.

INSURANCE INVESTMENTS HEALTHCARE PENSIONS

Norwich Union Portfolio Services Limited. Registered Office 8 Surrey Street Norwich NR1 3NG. Registered in England No 2503054. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Regulated by IMRO.



PENSIONS BY PHONE

24 hours a day..... 7 days a week..... Now you can pick up the phone and get pensions information or advice and even set up a plan, quickly and without fuss.

0345 6789 10

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

For your protection, your call to Scottish Widows may be recorded. Issued by Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, a mutual company. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products.



loose change

Premier Equity Protector offers investors worried about a possible slump in share prices an investment in the stock market which pays no income but returns up to 190 per cent of any rise in the FTSE 100 index in any three-month period but limits losses to 2 per cent. Gains roll up offshore and are taxed as income on withdrawal. The return is secured by a combination of interest in bank deposits and trading in options on the stock market. The minimum investment is £5,000, there is an initial charge of 5 per cent and an annual charge of 1.5 per cent. Call 0800-212577 for details or ask an IFA.

If you have £10,000 you can get 6.50 per cent gross paid annually or 6.31 per cent paid monthly on a 30-day notice postal account with First National Building Society in Guernsey. Rates rise to 6.75 per cent on £250,000.

Yorkshire Building Society is offering two new mortgages. One a variable rate (currently 6.59 per cent) which cannot exceed 7.99 per cent in the first five years, with an arrangement fee of £250 and

an early redemption penalty of 4.5 per cent within six years; the other a discount of 0.6 per cent a year for five years, with a redemption penalty of 3.5 per cent within six years.

Leeds & Holbeck has increased rates on its postal accounts to 5.70 per cent for £10,000 and 6.1 per cent on £50,000.

General Accident Direct is adding up to £2,000 of continental breakdown cover and ski cover to its Travelbond policies. Premiums range from £22.07 for 10 days and £34.48 for 22 days to £64.29 for an annual policy. Call 0800 121007.

Bradford & Bingley offers general or single company PEPs investing in any of the top 100 shares. The annual management charge is 0.5 per cent, but there is no initial deduction, and purchase fees are fixed at 0.25 per cent. Call 01374-555700.

Jupiter is launching a unit trust investing in Investment Trusts, aimed at undervalued funds trading on heavy discounts. Minimum investments are £1,000 lump sum or £100 a month in a PEP. Call 0171 412-0703 for details.



WORLD COVER

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE
CALL US ON 0800 365 121

Sale reaches fever pitch

Alison Eadie reports on how the world is copying the UK's privatisations

Roll up, roll up for the great privatisation sale. It may be winding down in the UK, but the pace is quickening in Europe, Latin America and South-east Asia.

This week there have been sales pitches from Mercury and Guinness Flight, arguing that the investment success of UK privatisations can be repeated elsewhere in the world and now is an excellent time to be jumping on board. To underline its point, Mercury has waived dealing charges until the end of the year on investments in Mercury European Privatisation Trust (MEPT) bought through its investment trust savings plan and Guinness Flight in the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) to buy into its Global Privatisation Fund free of initial charge and with a 1 per cent bonus allocation of units added at the end of next year. The offer lasts until 9 December.

Such vigorous drum banging is not just because new privatisations are coming thick and fast – over the next five years some \$200bn of state assets are expected to be sold in Europe and \$100bn in the rest of the world – but also to counter negative publicity generated by the winding up of Kepit. Kepit's disappointing performance over its two-and-a-half-year life raised doubts whether privatisation worked as well in countries with less free-market zeal than Thatcherite Britain. Thierry Ferrero, manager of Fidelity's Global Privatisation Fund, said that UK privatisation worked because the government allowed companies to change their culture and go for productivity and profits growth. "If the state privatises assets without relinquishing control or if friendly shareholders keep a dominant stake, there is no incentive for management to change."

He said the culture in Europe was changing, with Germany grasping the nettle ahead of France and the picture still complicated in Italy. In emerging markets, which make up 25 per cent of Fidelity's fund, the story is different as privatisations are bought for growth, not for restructuring and cost-cutting potential as in the developed world.

"We look at whether management

is good enough to deliver the long term infrastructure projects," Mr Ferrero said.

The investment parameters of privatisation funds have a significant impact on performance. Kepit was unlucky in that it raised too much money at the top of the market, but it also suffered from a narrower investment approach than its peers. It concentrated on new issues in continental Europe and was hit by overpricing of issues, notably in France and Italy.

MEPT, whose launch timing was equally bad, has a wider brief and a better performance to show for it. It

interprets privatisation to include old UK issues – its two biggest holdings are aero-engine manufacturer Rolls Royce and British Airways – and companies that buy assets from governments. It also has almost 8 per cent in Eastern Europe. Paul Harwood, MEPT joint manager, says a privatisation ceases to be eligible when it stops making money for the trust.

Since launch in March 1994, MEPT's total net asset value has risen by an undiluted 37.7 per cent against a rise of 28.1 per cent in the benchmark MSCI Europe index, but its shares have delivered a total return of only 18.2 per cent. The wide dis-

count of shares to their net asset value, which eventually forced Kepit's demise, is improving for MEPT partly as a result of its share buyback programme. But at 3.5 per cent discount against its investment trust average of 18 per cent the shares are still lagging and therefore cheap, according to Lough Caballan, managing director of Mercury Investment Trusts.

He says: "If you believe it is a good time to invest in Europe as interest rates come down and in privatisations with pricing now more realistic, then MEPT, with its above-average performance, has to be one of the more attractive trusts to buy."

Funds for private investors include investment and unit trusts, which trade at asset value, and range from global privatisation and utility funds, which are similar in content given their high proportion of telecom and energy stocks, to more narrow geographical or sectoral funds. OT's Telecommunications Fund, a European unit trust, invests worldwide but only in companies with at least half of earnings or assets in telecommunications.

Many of the global trusts are fully PEPable, which requires that at least half their assets are in Europe. But asset allocation can differ after that. Gartmore Global Utilities has 15 per cent of assets in North America, having made good money out of the regional US telephone companies, whereas Fidelity Global Privatisation has nothing there. Jeremy Podger, manager of Guinness Flight Global Privatisation Fund, says: "We believe the balanced global approach is more beneficial in hedging risk."

Private investors preferring to take the greater risk of buying privatisation shares directly rather than through a diversified fund will have plenty of choice, particularly of European issues. Deutsche Telekom, Europe's biggest privatisation, starts trading on world stock markets on Monday, having been well subscribed by private domestic investors.

However, international fund managers have been more lukewarm, viewing the offer price as rather rich and questioning whether the management culture has changed sufficiently for the company to succeed in the brave new competitive world.

The theory of privatisation investment holds that once free of government rule, companies become profit-driven, shareholder-conscious, efficient and able to gain advantage from near-monopoly status. There will be plenty of opportunities to test the theory in the next few years when global issues are expected in telecoms, utilities, oil and gas, airlines, banks and other financials, steel and paper. Whether it works will depend in large part on the stockpicking abilities of fund managers. They, at least, are convinced it is a buyer's market.

FIDELITY INVESTMENT TRUSTS

"Fidelity European Values gives me proven performance from the world's largest fund manager."

Fidelity European Values PLC is a proven performer. Since its launch in November 1991 the net asset value has risen by 164.1%* – that's an average growth of 21.4% per year. What's more in our opinion, it's also ideally placed to tap into the current potential of Continental Europe.

Along with three other investment trusts – Fidelity Japanese Values PLC, Fidelity Special Values PLC and Fidelity Asian Values PLC – Fidelity European Values PLC completes a range you can access through The Fidelity Investment Trust Savings Plan. Wherever you put your money, you can take advantage of the following benefits:

Low dealing charges.

For monthly savers there is no dealing charge. All you will have to pay is government stamp duty of 0.5%.

For lump sum investors the dealing charge is a competitive 0.75%.

Flexible payments.

Shares in these trusts can be bought in any combination and the amount you invest can be from as little as £30 a month. Alternatively, you can make your investment in a lump sum, and there is no maximum.

Full support from Fidelity.

Your investment will benefit from the strength and research capability of Fidelity, the world's largest fund management organisation.*

For more information contact your Independent Financial Adviser, or call Fidelity.

To: Fidelity Investments, PO Box 88, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9DZ. Please send me information on The Fidelity Investment Trust Savings Plan. Fidelity will not disclose any of the details below outside the Fidelity Investment marketing group.

Name _____ Address _____
Postcode _____

CALL FIDELITY FREE ON 0800 41 41 10
Callfree 9am-6pm. Open 7 days. Fax: 01737 836 980. <http://www.fid-intl.com/uk>



*Source: Fidelity NAV to NAV with net income reinvested (8/11/96). *Resources and assets include those of FMR Corp., a US company and affiliate (as at 30/09/96). Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of shares and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may get back less than you invested. Fidelity only provides information about its products and will not give investment advice based on individual circumstances. If shares are purchased through a professional adviser, commission may be deducted from your contributions. The annual management charge for FEV PLC, FAV PLC and FIV PLC is 1% and 0.99% for FSV PLC. Issued by Fidelity Investments International which acts as the manager of the Investment Trust Savings Plan and of the range of Fidelity Investment Trusts. Fidelity Investments International is regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. ID4G

For those who could like independent financial advice, Fidelity products are also available through Independent Financial Advisers.

"Legal & General now has the best-value UK Tracker Fund PEP..."

Money Marketing, 23rd November 1995.

No PEP beats us on cost
(most can't match our performance)

The Index-Tracking PEP from Legal & General offers PEP investors unbeatable value for money. At just 0.9% p.a., you won't find a cheaper PEP anywhere else. And there are still no initial charges or withdrawal fees to pay.

This can make a big difference to your profits.

For example, if growth was 10% p.a., a PEP which charges 1% a year would give you just 90% of this growth. Whereas the Index-Tracking PEP at only 0.9% p.a. would give you 99%.

Reliable performance that's hard to beat.

The Index-Tracking PEP also outperforms most other PEPs.

Source: Miford, no net effect to this fund with net income reinvested from 01/10/92 to 01/10/95. Since launch this figure makes no allowance for any management charges which are applicable to a PEP but not charges which would not significantly alter the performance depicted.

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. The 72% increasing value in unit trusts. Full written details are available upon request. All investments are carried out by L&G. Legal & General (UK) Trustees Limited. Registered in England No 1009416. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 3TF. Registered in the UK and the Personal Investment Authority. Member of AIT.

CALL 0800 11 66 22 FREE

7 DAYS A WEEK 8AM TO 10PM. PLEASE QUOTE REF. T8621.

Post to: Legal & General (Unit Trust Managers) Limited, FREEPOST KT4 4 4, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 6BA. Please send me full written details of the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____

If you already have any PEP investment, please tick here ☐

Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General group of companies, that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please contact us at the above address or on the above telephone number.



Steps to make inquiry easier

Clifford German on pensions

The Securities and Investment Board this week got round to chasing up the insurance companies and independent financial advisers which have been dealing with half a million "urgent" cases of mis-sold pensions with all the enthusiasm and speed of a Swiss bank disgoring war-time German gold. Insurance companies which, in the late Eighties, sold personal pensions to people who would probably have been better off in company schemes have assessed only 5 per cent of the 446,000 priority cases and offered redress to less than 2 per cent. Independent financial advisers have less of a workload, about 60,000, but have dealt with a minuscule proportion.

In an attempt to break the log-jam, SIB intends to tear up the list of 200 separate questions which insurers and advisers have been using to establish the extent to which the alleged victims have lost money, and replace it with eight simple questions.

Only when the questions have been answered will it be possible to assess whether there is a case for compensation and, if so, what form it should take and how much it should be.

There are two possible options. The insurance companies or financial advisers can negotiate to buy their clients back into their original schemes, which will usually be the best option where the individual continues to work for the same employer.

But in many cases the trustees of the original schemes will set a high price for re-entry, and providers are obliged to comply with the original terms of the scheme, where these are known, or with any subsequent improvements. This alone will involve a great

deal of extra paperwork and create another bottleneck a little further down the road. If reinstatement is not possible, the investments in the personal pension should be topped up, although it will be impossible to guarantee that a personal pension scheme will pay out the precise amount that a company scheme based on service and final salary at work would pay. SIB estimates that there could be at least a 5 per cent error either way.

All this implies that providers still have a long hard road to hoe to reach a reasonable settlement, and they have less excuse now for dawdling. But holders of personal pensions who think they were wrongly advised to give up their company schemes or not to join them have to play their part as well. In some cases less than 30 per cent of them have responded to requests from the insurers or advisers to register a "complaint" so that it can be vetted.

There is no deadline or cut-off point looming but there is no way they can qualify for compensation even if it can be established they were given a bad deal and would have been demonstrably better off to have stayed in or joined a company scheme.

The moral of the story is that if you were sold a personal pension and persuaded to leave a company scheme, you should even now write to the company or adviser who sold you the pension. And if, as is probably the case, you have received a letter from the provider asking you to say whether you feel you were wrongly advised or simply not advised, find the form now and fill it in. If you have the documents from your original pension scheme it will help speed the process.



Jonathan Davis

Richard Hills has seen the future of the investment management business. And it lies in hedge funds. You don't know what they are? Well, don't be ashamed. Most people in the investment business don't either.

George Soros runs a hedge fund, and if the term means anything to most people, it means a high-risk fund, domiciled somewhere exotic like Curacao, whose job is to speculate wildly in currencies or commodities with borrowed money. Hardly something that sensible investors want or need to worry about, in other words.

Mr Hills thinks differently. Hedge funds, he declares, are "the last great secret" in the investment business — "a

source of stunning performance" that remain "largely unknown and unappreciated by most investors". Every serious investor with a large portfolio should have at least part of it invested in this kind of vehicle. They promise the Holy Grail of the investment world — higher returns for less risk.

Strong words. Well, Mr Hills is in the business. His firm, Argyll Investment Management, is a boutique outfit that sells its clients advice and expertise on how to get into hedge funds. It picks out the best performers and packages them into its own stable of low, medium and high-risk "hedge fund funds". At the moment, you need a minimum of £250,000 to invest, but Mr Hills promises it won't be long — probably next year — before ordinary retail investors will have the chance to invest in a hedge fund vehicle as well.

Sounds too good to be true? Well, I am not so sure. Of course, higher returns for lower risk cannot endure forever. But, having visited Mr Hills last week, I can report (a) that he is no snake oil salesman, but a serious and thoughtful investment

adviser; and (b) that he has some convincing data to back his case. He points out correctly, that only a handful of the world's 5,000 hedge funds (under 5 per cent) are actually Soros-like funds, taking huge \$100 bets on movements in the world's foreign exchange and bond markets.

The majority are actually quite different animals whose primary purpose, as their name implies, is not to take on huge risks, but to hedge against it. Hedge funds were invented by AW Jones, an Australian who was the first to discover that you could increase returns in the market substantially by backing your judgement that the shares you like will rise, while laying off the risk that the market as a whole will move against you. (The mechanics of doing so, for example by selling index futures, or shorting stocks, can be awesomely technical, but the principle is clear enough.)

True, all hedge funds are still domiciled in offshore havens where the tax man is encouraged not to call and the regulatory requirements are much less onerous than with conventional funds. They use a lot of gearing and a lot of

derivatives. Both their strength and their weakness is that they can and do trade in all sorts of exotic instruments and markets — Russian debt, cocoa futures, you name it. Anyone who invests in them needs to do so with his eyes open about what he is getting into.

But that does not automatically make them spivvy, high-risk instruments. In fact, the recent data points in the other direction.

Not only have hedge funds consistently outperformed conventional managed funds in recent years, returning an average of 18 per cent a year, twice what the market did in the period 1988 to 1995, for example, but most have done so while taking on less, not more, risk than the average fund. If you put six of the best hedge funds together in "a fund of funds", the result is a diversified portfolio, Argyll argues, the risk of loss becomes smaller still.

Most investors, says Mr Hills, are essentially risk averse, not risk seekers. What matters to them is not whether their fund has done better than the market as a whole (the criterion by which most unit trusts are judged),

but whether or not investors have made or lost money over the period.

The second defining characteristic is that the fund manager's pay is much more closely related to how well he does each year.

Typically, a good hedge fund manager will receive 25 per cent of any gain that his funds succeed in making over and above the risk-free rate of return available elsewhere in the markets. It is a high price to pay, but one that investors only have to stump up when their fund is in the money. (With unit trusts you pay a flat fee based on the value of the fund, whether it goes up or down.)

It means you are likely to get the smartest money managers working for you. The rewards for them, if they deliver, are potentially huge — Mr Soros does not make \$500,000 a week for nothing. But so are the skills required. Investing to make absolute returns every year is by definition much harder than just trying to beat the market, though even that proves too much for 80 per cent of unit trust managers each year.

Over the next few years, predicts Mr Hills, more of the

UK's best fund managers will move into hedge funds, bringing smarter investors behind them. Before we know it, a business which for years has endured the image of being a speculators' haven will start to become respectable.

At that point, says Mr Hills, the secret will be well and truly out, and the chances are that hedge fund performance will regress to the mean, producing the same mediocre performance as most unit trusts do now. But, for the moment, the tide is running for those who understand the secret.

In the short term I predict that he will be proven right. True history is not that encouraging. The first great hedge fund bandwagon, in the 1960s, ended abruptly in tears when the market crashed. The difference now is that it is much easier, with the computing power available, to calibrate and measure the risks involved. And the calibre of player entering the game is undoubtedly changing — more brains, and in time no doubt also, more spivs.

Are investors up to the task of assessing the risks more accurately than before? That remains the big question.

HOW WILL YOU BROADEN YOUR INVESTMENT HORIZONS?

Did you know that you don't have to invest entirely in UK companies to enjoy the tax-free returns from a PEP? In fact you can invest in almost any region of the world. But when you decide to look further afield, which investment company will you turn to for international investment expertise?

Perpetual's reputation for investment excellence is built on our success not just in the UK, but in stockmarkets throughout the world.

If you have a special interest in a particular stockmarket or area, or you want the excitement of making up your own PEP portfolio, our Global Option offers the choice of 13 funds, investing in markets as

diverse as America, Europe and the Far East.

11 of these funds are in the top 25% of their sector for their performance since launch and 2 are sector leaders.

As a result of consistent performance like this, our fund management team has won more than fifty investment industry awards over the last three years alone.

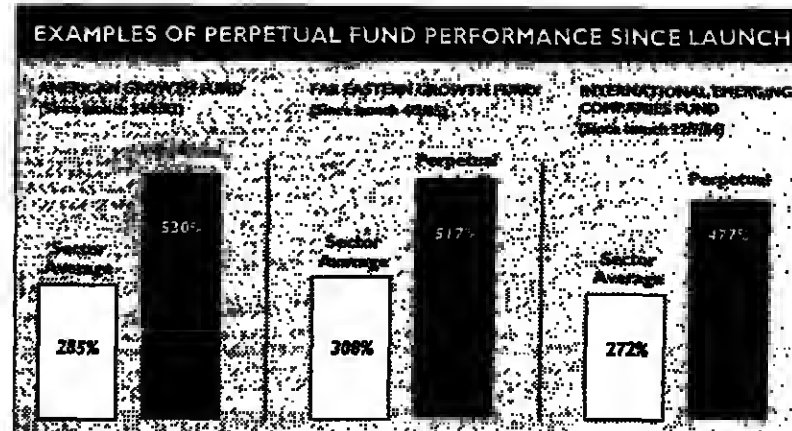
people have chosen to invest in a Perpetual PEP and more than 1,000 new investors join them every week.

For more information on a whole world of tax-free investment call our

Investor Support Unit on 01491 416123, talk to your

Perpetual
Financial

Regulated by IMRO



Which is probably why over 400,000

Adviser, or phone our 24-hour Literature Request Line free on 0500 417417.

Or simply fill in the coupon.

To: Perpetual Portfolio Management Limited, PO Box 131, Perpetual House, 47-49 Station Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1AF. Please send me further details on Perpetual's award-winning PEPs. Important: Please print clearly.

Print Name (Mr/Ms/Ms)

Address

Postcode

IND 18/9/96

SELLING YOUR ENDOWMENT? FOR BIGGER MONEY

CALL SEC NOW
0181 207 1666

SEC, Britain's biggest buyer of endowments will pay you much more than the surrender value.

Phone our helpful staff now for that extra cash and peace of mind. Your policy must be at least 8 years old and satisfy our selection criteria. FAX: 0181 207 4950

SEC SECURITIES ENDOWMENT CONTRACTS PLC

SEC House, 49 Theobald St, London EC2A 4DQ

SEC

Living it up in retirement means topping up your company pension now!

Having more time to enjoy life is an enticing prospect, whenever you plan to retire. But will your company pension be enough to let you do all you'd like to?

To get the maximum pension available, you would typically have to be in the same company pension scheme for 40 years. And changing your job just once can result in a quite dramatic reduction to your pension.

Topping up your company pension by means of an Equitable Free-Standing Additional Voluntary Contribution Scheme, however, can help you make up the difference and look forward to living it up in retirement. Your contributions are made from your gross income, with tax relief currently at the highest rate which you pay.

Remember that the value of tax relief available will depend on individual circumstances and that current legislation can change in the future.

What's more, we don't pay commission to third parties for the introduction of new business.

If you'd like more information by post and by telephone, call (0990) 36 48 58 or return the coupon below:

Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products

Regulated by the Financial Services Authority

Equitable Life, 100 Fenchurch Street, London EC3A 3AB. Tel: 0990 36 48 58. Fax: 0990 36 48 59.

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Woburn Square, LONDON, WC1R 4DU. Please send me further details on Equitable's Free-Standing AVC plans.

I would welcome information on The Equitable's Free-Standing AVC plans.

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms)

ADDRESS

Tel. (Home)

Tel. (Office)

Date of Birth



The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

All statistics are to 1st November 1996 on an offer-to-bid basis with gross income reinvested (source: Miro). Over the last five years, the percentage rise of the funds featured in the graphs is as follows: American Growth Fund 115% vs sector average 110%, Far Eastern Growth Fund 129% vs sector average 68% and International Emerging Companies Fund 151% vs sector average 70%. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up (this may partly be due to exchange rate fluctuations), and you may not get back the amount invested. Current tax levels and relief may change and their value will depend on your individual circumstances. Any recommendation which is given in this advertisement relates only to products marketed by the Perpetual group of companies.

Best borrowing rates

Telephone	% Rate and period	Max adv %	Fee	Incentive	Redemption penalty
MORTGAGES					
Fixed rates					
Scarlborough BS	0800 590547	0.20 for 1 year	85	0.75%	—
Capital Home Loans	01252 812271	4.35 to 1/2/99	75	£295	—
Northern Rock	0800 591500	7.49 to 1/1/02	95	£295	—
Variable rates					
Scarlborough BS	0800 590547	0.65% for 1 year	90	—	—
Principality BS	01222 344188	3.50% to 1/1/98	75	—	—
Northern Rock	0800 591500	4.24% to 1/1/00	95	£295	Refund vail fee
First time buyers fixed rates					
Bristol & West BS	0800 608088	1.95 to 1/10/97	90	275	—
Newcastle BS	0191 244 2468	6.49 to 1/1/00	95	£295	—
Chalfont & Glou	0800 272131	7.59 for 5 years	95	£485	Free valuation
First time buyers variable rates					
Principality BS	01222 344188	1.00 to 1/1/97	90	—	—
Greenwich BS	0181 8588212	3.49% for 2 years	95	£250	—
Northern Rock	0800 591500	5.24% to 1/1/02	95	—	Refund vail fee

Telephone	APR %	Max LTV	Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 years)
Unsecured			
Northern Rock BS	0345 421421	12.9H	£112.66
Direct Line	0141 2489866	13.9E	£112.86
Nationwide BS	via local branch	14.9	£113.15
Secured (second charge)			
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	7.5	£102.49
Royal B of Scotland	0131 523 7023	8.7	£102.49
Barclays Bank	0800 000929	9.3/9.6	£102.49

Telephone	Account	Authorised % pm	Unauthorised % pm	APR
OVERDRAFTS				
Woolwich BS	0800 400900	Current	0.76	9.5
Alliance & Leicester	0500 959595	Current	0.76	9.5
Abbey National	0500 200500	Current	0.94	11.9

Telephone	Card Type	Min Income	Rate % pm	APR %	Annual Fee	Int. free period
CREDIT CARDS						
Standard						
Co-operative Bank	0800 109000	Advantage Visa	—	0.64N	7.90N	nil
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	0.9167	11.50	0 days
RBS Advanta	0800 077770	Visa	—	0.94N	11.90N	56 days
Gold cards						
Co-operative Bank	0345 212212	Visa	£20,000	0.50	10.50	£120
RBS Advanta	0800 077770	Visa	£20,000	0.94N	11.90N	56 days
Royal B of Scotland	01702 362890	Visa	£20,000	1.05N	14.50N	£35

Telephone	Payment by direct debit	Payment by other methods
STORE CARDS		
John Lewis	via store	% pm APR
Marks & Spencer	01244 681681	1.39 18.0
Sears	via store	1.87 24.8
		1.94 25.9

APR Annualised percentage rate. B-C Buildings and Contents insurance LTV Loan to value. ASU Accident, sickness and unemployment. E Available to comparable motor insurance policyholders aged over 25 years. N Introductory rate for a limited period.

All rates subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01632 500577 14 November 1996

Best savings rates

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Instant Access					
Partman BS	01202 292444	Instant Access	Instant	£100	4.50 Year
Co-operative Bank	0345 232000	Pathfinder	Instant	£5,000	4.75 Month
Direct Line	0181 667 1121	Instant Savings	Instant	£10,000	5.50 Year
Direct Line	0181 667 1121	Instant Savings	Instant	£50,000	5.75 Year
Instant Access Post Office					
Teachers' BS	01202 867171	Bullfinch	Post	£500	4.80 1/2 Year
Alliance & Leicester BS	0645 238558	Instant Direct	Post	£5,000	4.40 Year
Bristol & West BS	0800 901109	Instant Access Post	Post	£10,000	5.85 Year
Bristol & West BS	0800 901109	Instant Access Post	Post	£25,000	6.05 Year
Instant Access Post Office					
Chelsea BS	0800 132351	POST-Tel 20 Day	20 day P	£500	6.85 Year
Chalfont & Glou	0800 17505	Direct 30	30 day P	£100	5.40 Year
National Counties BS	01372 747771	Direct 90	90 day P	£2,000	6.30 Year
Leeds & Holbeck BS	0113 225 7777	Postal Bonds	30/4/98 P	£10,000	6.60 Maturity
Instant Access Post Office					
Kleinwort Benson	01202 502404	HICA	Instant	£2,500	5.00 Month
Halifax BS	01422 335333	Asset Reserve	Instant	£10,000	4.00 Quarter
Chelsea BS	0800 717515	Classic Post	Instant	£10,000	4.35 Year
Schroders	0171 382 3301	Special	Instant	£10,000	5.15 Maturity
Instant Access Post Office					
Indian Hedge Bank	01222 220800	Fixed Term Deposit	1 Year	£2,000	6.75 Maturity
Yorkshire BS	0800 378858	Fixed Rate Bond	31/3/98	£5,000	6.80 Maturity
Leeds & Holbeck BS	0113 225 7777	Fixed Rate Bond	2 Year	£1,000	6.80 Year
Coventry BS	0345 665522	Fixed Rate Bond	30/11/99	£1,000	7.50 Year
Instant Access Post Office					
Sun Banking Corp	01438 744505	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£8,575	7.50P Year
West West Bank	0800 200400	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£3,000	7.45P Year
Birmingham Midshires	0645 720721	Instant Access	5 years	£1,000	7.00 Year
Principality BS	01222 344188	Instant Access	5 years	£500	6.80 Year

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Instant Access Post Office					
Sun Banking Corp	01438 744505	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£9,000	7.50P Year
West West Bank	0800 200400	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£3,000	7.45P Year
National Counties BS	01372 747771	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£9,000	7.20 Year
Birmingham Midshires	0645 720721	Instant Access	5 years	£1,000	7.00 Year

Instant Access Post Office					
Premium Life	0800 838020	1 year	£10,000	5.35P	Year
Premium Life	0800 838020	2 year	£10,000	5.85P	Year
Premium Life	0800 838020	3 years	£10,000	5.90P	Year
Premium Life	0800 838020	4 years	£10,000	6.00P	Year

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Instant Access Post Office					
Northern Rock	0800 350 76158	More Access	Instant	£25,000	6.30 Year
Northern Rock	01481 714600	More Access	30 day	£25,000	6.35 Year
Derbyshire (D&M) Ltd	01624 663432	90 Day Notice	90 Day	£15,000	6.55 Year
Northern Rock	01481 714600	Millennium Bond	1/1/00	£18,000	7.50P Year

Derbyshire (D&H) Ltd	01624 663432	90 Day Notice	90 Day	£25,000	6.55	Year
Northern Rock, Giers	01481 714600	Millennium Bond	1/1/00	£10,000	7.50F	Year
INVESTMENT SAVINGS						
Investment Accounts		1 month	£20	4.75	Year	
			£500	5.25	Year	

Income Bonds		3 months	\$25,000	5.50	Year
			\$2,000	6.00	Month
			\$25,000	6.25	Month
Capital Bond	Series J	5 years	\$100	6.65F	Maturity
First Option Bonds		12 months	\$1,000	6.00F	Year
			\$20,000	6.25F	Year

Pensioners' Guaranteed Income Bond	Series 3	5 year	£500	7.00F	Month
NS Certificates (tax-free)	43rd issue	5 year	£100	5.35F	Maturity
	9th Index linked	5 year	£100	2.50-1pi	Maturity
Children's Bond	Issue 13	5 year	£25	6.75F	Maturity

P. post only F. fixed rate

P post only F fixed rate. All withdrawals subject to 30 day loss of interest. All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01632 500577 14 November 1996



fear of finance

It does not look as if the Chancellor will have much more than £3bn net to give back to taxpayers next April, not now that the health secretary, Stephen Dorrell, has secured an extra £500m to spend on the NHS. A penny off the standard rate and an increase in the starting point for tax bands in line with average earnings are the concessions which would probably best please most taxpayers on 26 November.

Alternatively, a substantial widening of the 20p band would spread a small amount of jam even more widely by benefiting the lowest paid as well as basic-rate taxpayers.

If you take the Prime Minister's recent remarks about priority for cutting income tax literally, however, the chances of the Chancellor abolishing inheritance tax and capital gains tax this month have diminished considerably.

Abolition would cost him £2.5bn in a full year and almost certainly leave the Chancellor with too little in hand to implement a cut in the standard rate of income tax as well.

It would also give a Labour Chancellor the opportunity to score political points by reinstating both taxes after the next election.

The Chancellor could, however, simplify CGT by rebasing the indexation allowance. At present, any realised gains on assets which were owned before 1982 are calculated on their value in 1982 and all taxable gains since then are diluted in line with the retail price index.

But it becomes increasingly difficult as time goes by to put a 1982 value on assets other than quoted stocks and shares which have been held for 14 years or more.

There is also a case for taxing long-term gains less heavily than short-term gains, if only to spike the gains of the shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, who would almost certainly introduce a two-level tax next year. Either way, however, it makes little sense for

investors to establish a taxable gain, or give away assets to minimise inheritance tax before the Budget.

Mr Clarke could please investors by increasing the amounts which can be invested each year in tax-free TESSAs and PEPs, especially if CGT continues.

A move to merge the allowances for single-company PEPs and ordinary PEPs is also quite likely. If he wants to be imaginative, he may try to consolidate the annual amount which can be invested tax-free in TESSAs, PEPs and pension funds combined, on the grounds that few people can afford to put the maximum available into all three pots, and the current rules on tax relief for pension contributions are forbiddingly complicated. But immediate changes in mid financial year are unlikely.

The housing market is hoping the Chancellor will not further reduce the tax relief on mortgage interest payments, and that he will raise the starting point for stamp duty to exempt more house purchases altogether.

Employees in profit-related pay and company share option schemes are also hoping the Chancellor will reaffirm his support rather than clamp down on over-generous schemes, and venture capital trust promoters are hoping for concessions.

Some taxes seem certain to rise. A controversial 1 per cent increase in VAT would damp down spending and pay for bigger cuts elsewhere.

Petrol and tobacco excise duties are certain to rise, as part of the Government's environmental and social programme, so it will pay to top up before the 26th.

But the Chancellor will be pulled two ways on taxing beer, wines and spirits. Rises in the insurance premium tax and the air passenger duty on travellers using UK airports are quite possible.

Clifford Geiman

The GA Guaranteed Growth Bond Plus

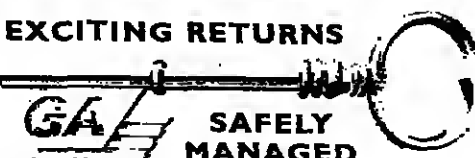
30% GUARANTEED growth **50% POTENTIAL growth**

IF YOU THINK INVESTMENT IS JUST A LOTTERY, you haven't discovered these winning numbers...

Many people are understandably afraid of dabbling in the investment 'lottery' for one simple reason - the chance of losing their capital. But now you can enjoy high growth potential PLUS the security of a guaranteed return, with absolutely no risk to your capital, so long as your investment is held until maturity.

Invest in the GA Guaranteed Growth Bond Plus NOW and at the end of its six year term you will be GUARANTEED to receive a return of 30% plus your initial investment.

- ✓ Your capital will be completely secure if you keep it for the full 6 year term
- ✓ Guaranteed minimum growth of 30%
- ✓ Potential to achieve a growth of 50%
- ✓ You can invest as little as £2,500
- ✓ Investment term is just 6 years
- ✓ Backed by the experience and expertise of General Accident



PLUS if the FT-SE 100 Index has increased by 30% at the end of this term you'll be paid a 20% bonus, bringing your overall return to an exciting 50%

THIS OFFER IS STRICTLY LIMITED so find out more right now - call this number FREE **0500 100 200** Investments must be placed by 13.12.96 Request your FREE Information Pack today!

Request your FREE Information Pack now

CALL FREE ON 0500 100 200 LINES OPEN 24 HOURS

Or complete the coupon and return to: Guaranteed Investments Department, General Accident, FREEPOST YQ550, York YO1 1BR. You won't need a stamp.

YES Please send me my FREE Information Pack with full details on how I can earn a GUARANTEED minimum growth of 30% on my investment.

TITLE MR/MRS/MISS/MS INITIALS ☐ ☐

SURNAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TEL NO.

DATE OF BIRTH

General Accident

3 M&G European Unit Trusts

M&G now has 3 European unit trusts with investment objectives to meet your needs. All 3 funds are available for investment within the M&G PEP.

- The M&G European & General Fund - for investors looking to build capital from a diversified portfolio of European securities.
- The M&G European Dividend Fund - for investors aiming to achieve an above average and increasing income from their investment.
- The new M&G European Smaller Companies Fund - for investors aiming for capital growth.

To: The M&G Group, Bristol BS98 7ET. Please send me details of the M&G European Fund range and how to transfer any non M&G PEP.

NO SALESMAN WILL CALL.

You should contact your independent financial adviser (if you have one) before investing. The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. The value of the tax benefits of PEPs will depend on your own circumstances. The tax regime of PEPs could change in the future.

Mr/Ms/ Miss INITIALS SURNAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

GG-NMAET

M&G does not offer investment advice or offer any recommendations regarding investments. We only market the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group.

Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited (Regulated by The Personal Investment Authority). M&G Unit Trusts are managed by M&G Securities Limited. Regulated by M&G and The Personal Investment Authority.

We may make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you about other products or services offered by ourselves and associated M&G Companies.

Tick the box ☐ if you would prefer not to receive this information.



Managing your money for the longer term

3 M&G European Unit Trusts

For details return the coupon or telephone **(0990) 600 627** or e-mail **hb@MandG.reply.Co.UK**

"European companies and stockmarkets are in the throes of an unprecedented period of change, from which shareholders will probably emerge as the main winners."

John Hatherly, Head of Research, M&G

من الامم

Small and perfectly formed



Above, Peter Sellers and the Mini, both icons of the Sixties. Left, the latest small car, Ford's Ka

Little cars are back in a big way. By Gavin Green

Small cars aren't small any more. They're getting bigger, fatter and more expensive. The latest VW Polo, the smallest car made by Europe's biggest car maker, is as big and heavy as the first Golf – traditionally one class up. An Escort is now the size of an early Cortina. Back in 1959, the Mini invented the modern small car. It was 10ft long, could accommodate four at a pinch and two in comfort, and had enough luggage space for a big family shop or a short family vacation. It became a big sales success, if – owing to the financial stupidity of BMC and later British Leyland – never a commercial hit. And the world copied it. But these copies were succeeded by bigger, heavier cars. The motor industry's excuse was that they had to be heavier to meet new safety regulations – as though the collective brainpower of the car industry was incapable of paring weight from other areas, while still offering airbags, side intrusion beams, crumple zones etc. (Another even more feeble excuse I've heard when challenging the growing obesity of all modern cars, is that people are getting bigger, so cars must follow.)

From the car makers' perspective, a happy corollary of cars getting bigger is that they also get more expensive. The car industry has always subscribed to the misguided notion that a bigger car appeals to a wealthier clientele than a small car, and therefore should cost more. And so, now that every other small car model has gone to fat, the Mini once again stands supreme as the leanest, most brilliantly designed, most space efficient car on the road. Only the Polish-built Fiat Cinquecento threatens its tiny-tot primacy. But competition is about to hot up. In an extraordinary volte-face, the car industry is about to rediscover the multifarious charms of the small car. They are starting to think small because, as traffic gets worse, more of their customers are starting to do the same. Equally as the two- or three-car family gets more popular, so there is room for a city/run-about/commuting/shopping car in the fleet. And, as fuel prices start to rise above inflation – likely in Europe if not in ecologically illiterate America – so small cars and their smaller fuel bills make sense. These new small cars will not be bought because of their cheapness.

As with the Mini – which has over the years been particularly inexpensive – they will be bought because of their desirability. Unlike most current "small" cars, which are just downscaled and less competent versions of bigger machines, these new cars are distinctive, stand-alone products. They will look special, be classless (one of the Mini's greatest attractions), be fun to drive and put a smile back on the face of motorists who have become increasingly disillusioned with the dull heavyweights. First up is the Ford Ka, darling of the recent British Motor Show. Unlike the Fiesta, which is mostly bought by people who can't afford Escorts, people will buy a Ka because they really want one. And you can see why: it's stylish, smart, cute, fun to drive and fairly cheap. The Escort is none of these things. The Ka is also well equipped, another ovelty for a small car. In the past, car makers had a predictably cynical view of small car customers. Because they didn't have much to spend, they were offered few luxuries. If you wanted air conditioning, power steering, electric windows, central locking etc, then you clearly had extra pounds to spend, so you would obviously want a car with extra inches to drive. It was a cock-eyed logic, but it was the motor industry's excuse all the same. This is now changing. The next intriguing small car comes from Mercedes-Benz, better known for limos than for lightweights. The new A-class is previewed at next spring's Geneva Show and will go on sale in Britain in early 1998. It will almost certainly be the cleverest car of the year, possibly of the decade. An ingenious twin floorplan will sandwich the engine and gearbox under the body and enable almost the whole length of the car to be devoted to passengers. Thus, finally, the Mini's space efficiency – unchallenged for 37 years – may be beaten. The A-class will marry Fiesta length with Mooco carrying capacity, and will cost from about £14,000 – Golf money. Smaller and cheaper, and also from the Mercedes stable, is the new Smart Car. It, too, is slated for 1998. A two-seater co-developed by Swatch, the watch people, the Smart Car is only eight feet long and will be marketed as an environmentally friendly, urban get-about. The French built baby will cost in the

region of £6,000. Volkswagen and Vauxhall will also launch interesting small cars in the next few years, coming in under their Polo and Corsa models. Fiat, the most committed of all makers to the art of the small car, replaces its Cinquecento in just over a year with a new model to be called the Seicento. It's a more stylish, more distinctive update of the current Cinquecento. Later, in the year 2000, Audi is scheduled to launch its new A2, an aluminium-bodied lightweight hatchback, said to be good for 95mpg. The most eagerly awaited small car of all, though, is the new Mini, slated for 2001 or 2002. Hurried along by BMW, but designed by Rover in Britain, the new Mini uses a South American-built 1.4-litre four-cylinder motor co-developed by BMW. It will not be cheap – prices will start from about £9,000 in today's money. As with the Ka and the current (but recently upgraded) Mini, the new Mini will be bought out because of its low price but because of its style, distinctiveness and its common-sense approach to transport.

noise, fuss and consumption. Racing through the lower gears, acceleration is quite cippy. It's not straight-line speed that makes the Mini quick from A to B, though, so much as incisive steering, oo-roll cornering and terrific agility. No rival scuttles along twisty roads – or nips through urban traffic – with greater alacrity. Ironically, the £795 go-faster sports pack blunts top speed – a modest 84mph for the white-roofed, bonnet-stripped Cooper. But what's lost on the straights, through the extra drag of wide-tired wheels, is regained on the roundabouts. Dip into the options list, which includes "classic" leather (£500) and pearlescent paint (£265), and the humble Mini will set you back more than £10,000. Worth the money? Consider these three cheaper fun-car alternatives. Fiat Cinquecento Sporting, £7,054. Cute and budget-priced funster of the Latin Perpetual school. The engine is buzzy but eager, the gear change nasty. Zest like a Mini, but more economical. Handles with spirit on grippy tyres. Well equipped. Ford Ka, £8,195. Trendy looks date the Mini's. Sluggish performance but the old 1.3 engine is quiet and refined. Handles brilliantly, rides smoothly, grips well. Much roomier and more comfortable than the Mini. Citroën Saxo 1.4VXS, £9,390. Not such a character as the Mini but otherwise superior, being faster, comfier and more civilised. Kippeny priced hatch with nippy performance, excellent handling, ample room and practical layout.

Roger Bell

Road test Mini Cooper

The Mini deserves to be voted Car of the Century. As the precursor to all cars with a transverse engine and front-wheel drive (which means most), it has a stronger claim to the title than big sellers such as the Model T Ford and VW Beetle. It was launched 37 years ago as BMC's answer to the bubble car, and is still alive and bouncing, though dwindling in numbers. Just 20,000 were sold in 1995, against a peak of 318,000 in 1971. Introduced in 1959 as cheap wheels for the impecunious, the Mini has evolved in its twilight years as a retro funster for the well-heeled. The Japanese are its most ardent fans.

Confirmation that there's life yet in Britain's best loved car comes with a package of changes to see the Mini through to the next century. Cheap Minis are no more. At £9,000 before extras, Rover's latest models are 100 expensive to compete with utilitarian runabouts such as the Citroën AX (£6,350), Fiat Cinquecento (£6,132), Kia Pride (£5,489) or Suzuki Swift (£6,720). Even Ford's new Ka costs much less.

Rover now sees its minuscule cube as a living link with the Sixties and a trendy means of self-expression. According to the blurb, customers can choose from a wide range of options to reflect their personality. If the purity of the original has been lost through embellishment, rest assured that its character has not. Rover has resisted any temptation to do a face-lift on a design icon. Nor has it done anything about the car's atrociously jerky ride (the product of rubber-coke springs), or the uncomfortable knees-up driving position, justified by Issigonis with the immortal observation: "You need to be uncomfortable to be alert." Accept these deficiencies and the Mini is still great fun.

The Mini Cooper no longer has more power and zest than the ordinary Mini, more's the pity. Both versions have the same old raucous engine, dressed with modern electronics to raise torque and meet emission regulations. There's still no five-speed gearbox, but fourth (top) has been raised to cut



noise, fuss and consumption. Racing through the lower gears, acceleration is quite cippy. It's not straight-line speed that makes the Mini quick from A to B, though, so much as incisive steering, oo-roll cornering and terrific agility. No rival scuttles along twisty roads – or nips through urban traffic – with greater alacrity. Ironically, the £795 go-faster sports pack blunts top speed – a modest 84mph for the white-roofed, bonnet-stripped Cooper. But what's lost on the straights, through the extra drag of wide-tired wheels, is regained on the roundabouts.

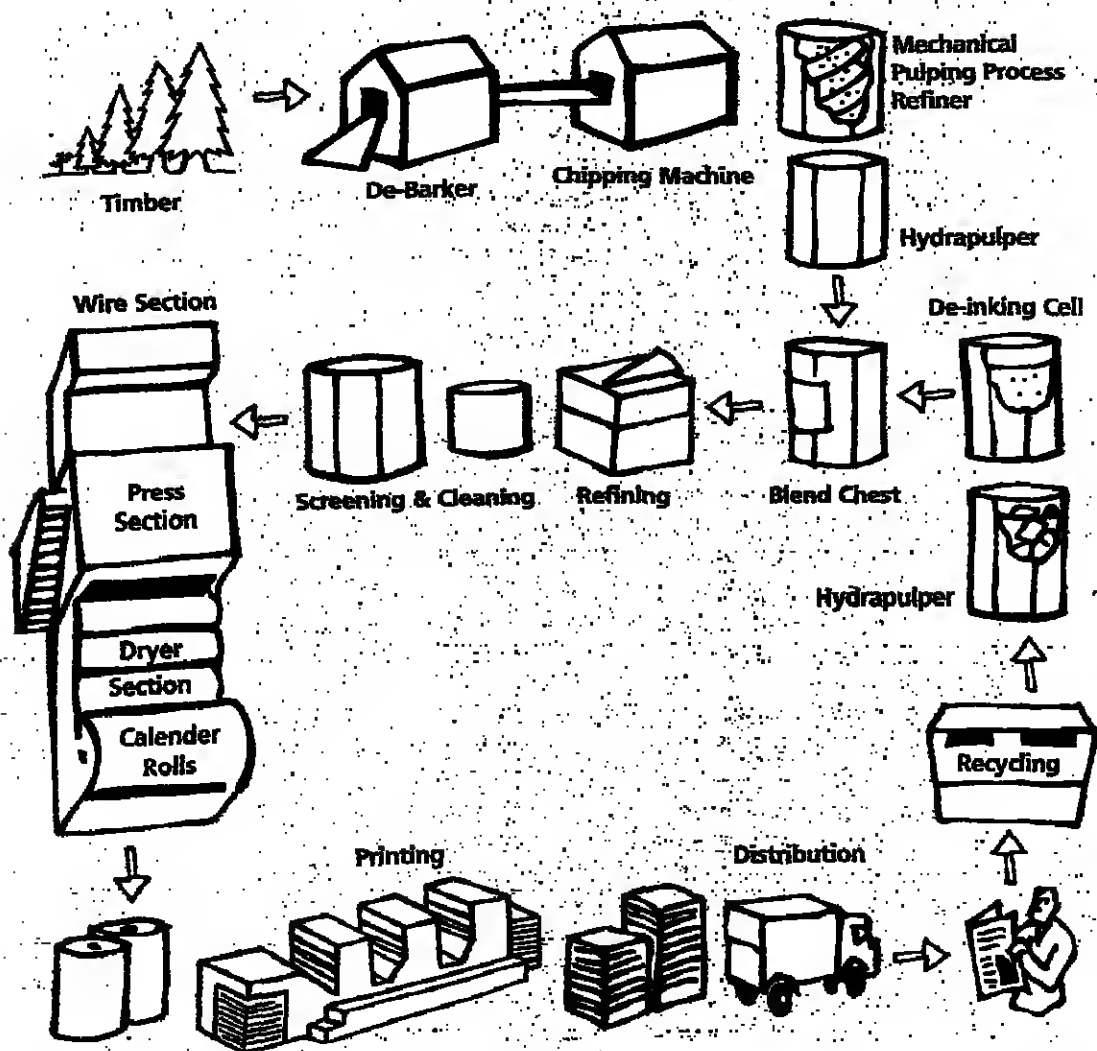
Dip into the options list, which includes "classic" leather (£500) and pearlescent paint (£265), and the humble Mini will set you back more than £10,000. Worth the money? Consider these three cheaper fun-car alternatives.

Fiat Cinquecento Sporting, £7,054. Cute and budget-priced funster of the Latin Perpetual school. The engine is buzzy but eager, the gear change nasty. Zest like a Mini, but more economical. Handles with spirit on grippy tyres. Well equipped.

Ford Ka, £8,195. Trendy looks date the Mini's. Sluggish performance but the old 1.3 engine is quiet and refined. Handles brilliantly, rides smoothly, grips well. Much roomier and more comfortable than the Mini.

Citroën Saxo 1.4VXS, £9,390. Not such a character as the Mini but otherwise superior, being faster, comfier and more civilised. Kippeny priced hatch with nippy performance, excellent handling, ample room and practical layout.

HERE'S ONE OF THIS PAPER'S BEST STORIES



The Making of your Daily Newspaper
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION DIAL THE FAX BACK NUMBER 0839 393037
Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times
OR WRITE TO: 1 RIVENHALL ROAD, WESTLEA, SWINDON, SN5 7BD
TELEPHONE: 01793 879229 FAX: 01793 886182

Issued by the NEWSPRINT & NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

motoring

Car Accessories

GET TO GRIPS with winter conditions



RUD GRIP SNOW-CHAIN!
RUD Chains Ltd. • John Wilson Business Park
Whitstable, Kent CT5 3QT • Thanet Way • Unit 10-12
Telephone (01227) 276611 • Facsimile (01227) 276586

weissenfels

Probably the world's easiest fitting snow chains.
DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT THIS WINTER

For our colour brochures
Tel: (01732) 884408

BMW			
Barons			
SALOON & COUPE			
241L	218 Cpe Bright Red, ESR, Alloy, 35,000m	£14,495	
241L	218 SE Red, Full Colour, Stereo, 5,000m	£16,995	
241L	218 SE Boston Green, ESR, Alloy, 25,000m	£13,995	
241L	218 Diamond Black, ESR, 25,000m	£14,495	
241L	218 SE Boston Green, 13,000m	£14,495	
241L	218 SE Boston Green, 7,000m	£17,995	
241L	218 Boston Green, ESR, 15,000m	£16,495	
241L	218 Cpe Diamond Black, ESR, 25,000m	£16,495	
241L	225 TDA Arctic Silver, ESR, 5,000m	£18,995	
241L	225 Cpe Madeira, Leather, ESR, 17,000m	£22,995	
CONVERTIBLE			
241L	218 Auto Montreal Blue, 18,000m	£16,495	
241L	218 Alpine White, Black Ltr, 5,000m	£16,995	
241L	220 Alpine White, Ltr, Air Con, 35,000m	£22,995	
241L	225 Bright Red, Ltr, Power Hood, 10,000m	£26,495	
TOURINGS			
241L	218 Auto Lark Mountain Blue, ESR, 35,000m	£14,495	
241L	225 Brilliant Red, ABS, ESR, 25,000m	£14,495	
241L	225 Bright Red, Air Con, 45,000m	£14,995	
241L	225 Auto Montreal Blue, Ltr, ESR, 5,000m	£22,995	
241L	225 Auto Orient Blue, Ltr, A/C, 5,000m	£23,995	
5 SERIES			
241L	218 SE Cayenne Red, Alloy, ESR, 25,000m	£15,495	
241L	225 SE Sorrento Blue, Air Con, 5,000m	£22,995	
241L	225 SE Panorama, Alloy, 7,500m	£24,995	
241L	225 A SE Oxford Green, Ltr, 15,000m	£24,995	
241L	244 A Ascot Green, Ltr, A/C, 15,000m	£28,995	
7 SERIES			
241L	730 ASE White, Ltr, A/C, 45,000m	£13,995	
241L	730 Auto Aspen Silver, Ltr, A/C, 27,000m	£28,995	
241L	730 L Auto Arctic Grey, Full Ltr, 11,000m	£32,995	
241L	730 L Auto Arctic Grey, Full Ltr, 11,000m	£32,995	
241L	740 Auto Arus Blue, Alloy, 50 Sts, 12,000m	£49,995	
Farnborough 01252 518185			
Open 7 days a week MON-FRI 9.30-5.30pm SAT 9.30-1.30pm SUN 11.00-4.30pm			

Registration Numbers	
MARKET RESEARCH	
33 DAISY HILL DRIVE, CHORLEY PR6 3NE	
AA	350 GF 728 2,250 JT 275 2,600 NKU 88 500
AD 728	1,600 GOR 80N 4,000 KDL 492 950 W MP 500
AH 825	1,550 (GORDON) 82 KEN 3,800 320 NT 1,550
235 BAX	1,550 JG 076 775 ASH KLB 600 MWN 1 3,550
728 BLJ	150 (U GORE) (A SI PORSCHE) (NVEN-NEVIN)
809 B	550 HB 871 400 CLR 735 885 DT 77 500
COE 947V	325 LEO 307 900 MS PDW 650
944 DEC	1,250 945 GZ 1,000 (LED BOV) 404 PP 1,000
105 722V	750 H4 NON 875 RJ EUT 2,950 PV 273 1,300
440 DEL	2,000 (UEUTEMANT) REG 944V 800
783 DIB	950 HAZ 6 2,500 LS 7827 1,500 807 RI 1,850
707 EDM	1,300 (HAZEL) 948 LTD 500 RN 9477 1,900
EK 752	1,450 90 HD 3,750 2 MA 12,000 877 RM 1,550
EM 772	1,350 HK 474 1,550 J68 MAY 500 SEP 65 1,950
87 EOD	500 HR 88 3,850 M685 MAY 500 SS 9649 2,350
621 EPD	950 JAG 88Y 385 MARCK 1,150 U PE 1,850
14 FCA	885 341 JH 2,250 (METSCHER) 885 WB 2,750
FJH 86	1,250 JB 6566 1,000 MB 511 2,450 50 WH 4,000
FSU 968	950 J JGG 8,500 PORSCHE WJ 5484 965
AB 820	500 863 JKP 950 MEY HW 600 VWS 18 1,600
(AI GADD)	10 J75 3,250 NC 1 22,500 2527 WW 1,250
GBH 13Y	425 JS 3363 3,650 10 NC 4,000 YF 435 1,250
PHONE 01227 402305 FAX 01227 472435	
ALL ARE PLUS VAT	
Mazda	
SAAB	
MAZDA CHOICE	
SAAB Largest Selection in East Angles, Buckingham Stanley Cambridge, 01223 202250/400002	
To advertise in this section please call	
0171 293 2338.	

Presents from ancient history

The Museum Company offers gifts inspired by exhibits in glass cases



"Rarefied novelties are the very stuff of the Museum Company"

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN LAWRENCE

One are the days when Christmas shopping meant an endless trudge of the streets in search of inspiration. The burgeoning trend for mail order shopping means that you can now relax in a comfy armchair, safe in the knowledge that your presents are just a phone call away. Museums have been quick to jump on the bandwagon and their catalogues offer a surprisingly large range of merchandise. Quite apart from the obvious advantages of shopping by telephone, these catalogues are a good way of supporting national museums.

The Bodleian Library

This is an excellent example of how a little flair and imagination can result in an interesting and unusual collection of well designed, covetable gifts. Clearly a great deal of thought has gone into creating the catalogue and a large proportion of the gifts take their cue from works of art owned by the Bodleian: Cats Post-It Notes has a procession of cats taken from a 13th-century English bestiary printed on each page (£2.99); and a delightful set of three colouring books for children contains images lifted from the Library's medieval manuscripts (£3.75 for the set). The Bodleian building itself is also a rich source of inspiration – a range of fantastical silver jewellery includes a brooch featuring the Bodleian Beast, which was taken from a stone carving in the Old Bodleian Library. The catalogue is divided up into six sections – "Town and Gown", "Indoors, Outdoors, Works of Art, The Middle Ages, Fun and Games, and Reading and Writing. There are plenty of ideas for those of a literary bent, as one would expect: the sturdy oak "Bodleian Bookrest" as long used in the reading rooms of the Bodleian Library (£75), or the Bookworm Game, a novel memory game which uses stories and illustrations from more than 100 children's books in the Library.

The Bodleian Shop in the Old Library is open Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, (9am-5pm, Jan-March) and Sat 9am-

Buying presents for people you don't know very well isn't what to please, amuse, thank or impress can be a dismal shopping experience, on a par with trying to find a gift for the man or woman who has everything (not anyone I know, not you might). Suddenly everything in the shops looks samey and dull, and you find you've left your inspiration at home with your comfortable shoes. In which case you won't have considered a tipping stick, a polemoscope or Edward Munch's *The Scream*, printed on a tie.

Such rarefied novelties are the very stuff of the Museum Company, an American venture which copies historic items, mainly from the world's museums, and sells them in its 70 stores in the States, nine outlets in Japan and, since last year, two shops in this country.

All the items sold by the Museum Company are accompanied by history cards, which is just as well, as I would not have recognised the tipping stick if it had jumped up and hit me on the nose. Now I know that the prototype is said to have been invented for Edward, Prince of Wales, whose mother, Queen Victoria, disapproved of his drinking and gambling. So Edward commissioned a walking stick with a whisky vial hidden inside. The tipping stick that the Museum Company sells is copied from one in a private collection. It unscrews into three parts for travelling and includes a compass in the head (presumably so that after drinking the contents of the vial, you still know where you're going).

It will be interesting to see whether the Museum Company does as well in Europe as it has in America. As Lucy Denton, the Brent Cross manager, points out,

"Americans are more in awe of history than we are. Our gargoyles, for instance, sell like hot cakes in the States but not so well here." We are more practical. It seems, going for stainless steel and brass business card holders at £30.

The stock varies from the artily sublime (early-19th-century Italian filigree frames, for £20.95 and £23.95) to the joyfully ridiculous (a Venus de Milo mouse pad for your computer, for £16.50). In other words, there is something for everyone – especially those difficult types who seem to have everything. The company does not offer mail order but will gift-wrap purchases and carry them to the car (a bit of living history in itself).

"We keep a list of things that people ask for, for future consideration, and send feedback to the States where all our buying is done," Ms Denton explains. Although most items are bought in, from museums or manufacturers, some are exclusive to the company. And it produces its own sculptures, such as the resin Hebe (price £59) adapted from the original by the Danish artist Bertel Thorvaldsen, and the alabaster Aphrodite (£149) from the Melos original in the Louvre.

One of the company's best-sellers, Rodin's *The Kiss*, also in alabaster, comes in two portable sizes, priced at £49 and £169; and you can have Michelangelo's *Pietà* on the mantelpiece for £149.

Although many items could be classed as executive toys, the store does a nice line in educational kits – ostensibly for children, but I can think of several adults who would enjoy constructing Galileo's telescope, the world's first thermometer or a Roman water clock. Sets in the Scientific Explorer series cost £21.95.

Also likely to invite nostalgia are Tiffany lamps (£309-£349), but classical designs reign supreme. A large selection of items from Tutankhamun's tomb includes a gold-leafed funerary mask at £399, though easier to live with is the stunning range of Roman glassware and jewellery, copies of those found on an archaeological dig in Israel. These elegant reproductions are made using the same glass-blowing process that was used by the ancients.

Timeless, too, is Greek sycamore-leaf jewellery in pewter, gold and garnet (necklace £69, earrings £28.95, from originals in the Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery). And the utterly romantic early-15th-century ring inscribed Vons et Nul Aurre (you and no other), copied from the V&A in 9ct gold at £149-£179.

Another faithfully-copied ring can be seen in a painting of St Catherine by the Venetian artist Lorenzo Lotto in the National Gallery of Art, Washington. Reproduced in 9ct gold and lotite, it costs £87.50.

Also look for Russian porcelain boxes with miniature paintings on lacquer, Italian millefiori perfume bottles, and the contents of the scientific case, especially if you are planning on buying a present for a man.

As for the polemoscope, otherwise known as "The Private Eye", this is an 18th-century opera glass which gives a right-angled view, while the owner looked as if he or she were intent on the stage, they could spy on the theatre box next door. Just the thing to give the boss or her husband.

The Museum Company can be contacted on 0181-202 7774.

Jenny McClean

12.30pm. For details contact The Bodleian Library Marketing & Publishing Division, Broad Street, Oxford (01865 277091).

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, A quick flick through the "Holiday '96" catalogue confirms the Met's legendary reputation. Every single object for sale – from humble glass beakers to elaborate pieces of jewellery – is in what we have come to regard as unquestionable good taste, of an extremely high quality and, furthermore, sold at competitive prices. Don't be deterred by the fact that the Met is 3,500 miles from England. It is relatively easy to order items over the telephone provided one has a credit card to hand. Americans go the whole hog when it comes to Christmas decorations, and the Met offers an exciting range of Christmas tree ornaments including a 24ct gold electroplated, 3-D holly leaf ornament taken from a Gothic design in Floriated Ornament, and a book by Pugin, (£28). Equally good-looking are the hand-blown and hand-painted

glass tree ornaments copied from northern European blown-glass vessels in the Museum's Robert Lehman collection (\$16.50 each). The huge range of gifts ensures that there is something for every taste, from the funky frosted glass Monkey glasses, based on a design by Joseph Hoffman (\$48 for a set of eight), to what has become a design classic, the "Venus Earrings" taken from earrings in a painting by Peter Paul Rubens (\$48 a pair).

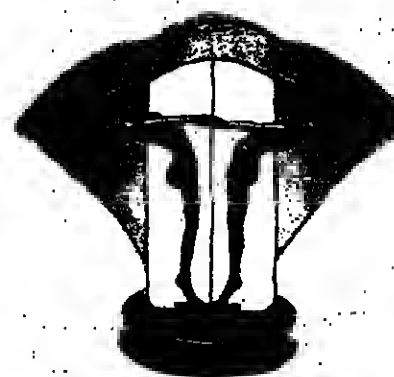
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028. NB: The last mailing date for merchandise to reach the UK to arrive in time for Christmas is 25 November. The special customer service number for orders coming from outside the US is 00-1 718 326 7050, between 9am and 4pm Eastern Standard Time.

The Science Museum The 36-page catalogue is brimming over with a confusing mix of imaginative brain-teasers, science fiction toys, electronic gadgets – and also some surprisingly mundane practical items, such as a Multiway Plug, which can wire up to four appliances into one unit (up to a maximum total of 13 amps, £12.95), or a zinc-coated instant fire escape, available in two sizes (£75 or £110) – hardly inspiring gifts for Christmas! Lurking amongst the plethora of products are a few items that are worth seeking out. These include a motorised orrery, ideal for any child showing astronomical leanings (£14.95). It comes with an 18-minute cassette by the astronomer Patrick Moore. The museum also sells witty children's pyjamas printed with life-sized skeletons which glow in the

dark (£16.95 a pair), and zoom binoculars, which enable magnification from 8x to a powerful 27x, guaranteed for 10 years (£99). For the businessman or woman, you may like to seek out a pocket-sized electronic Travelator which combines a clock for home and foreign time, a calendar, a dual alarm, a calculator, a currency converter and a special "Fund Management System", which keeps a daily record of expenditure (£24.95).

The Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London, SW7. For details of the catalogue, call 01793 480666.

The Royal Academy of Arts A lively, upbeat, forward-looking catalogue with a useful section devoted to artists' materials including an excellent beech-wood table easel, perfect for recreational painters without access to a studio. Many of the items, mugs, ties and mats are commissioned exclusively from Royal Academicians such as Geoffrey Clarke, Norman Ackroyd, Elizabeth Blackadder and Frederick Gore. Particularly exuberant

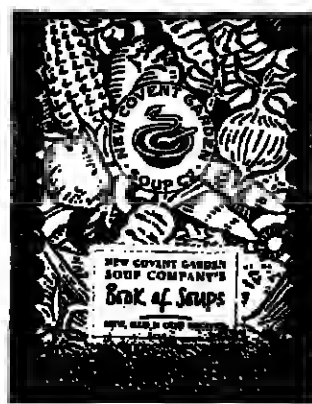


The Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7. Orders: 0990-647484; Query line, 01793-480666.

Amicia de Moubay

bazaar

good thing



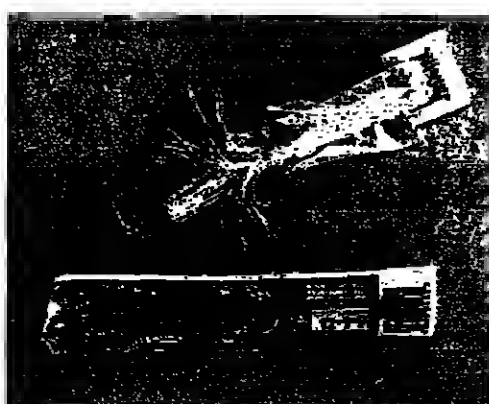
New Covent Garden Soup Company's Book of Soups, £12.99

The Covent Garden Soup Company has decided to share the secrets of its success – the recipes. This lovely ring-bound collection of "new, old and odd recipes" kicks off

with a page devoted to tricks of the trade; then they've chucked in a generous selection of the weird and wonderful ideas the public have sent them, such as Mrs Antoniadis' New England Carrot, Apricot and Sesame Soup. Each recipe comes with notes on provenance and serving suggestions. The soups are divided into ten chapters, with titles like Wonderful, Reviving, Seasonal and Sweet.

Available from good bookshops

mad thing



Cheestrings, 29p

Dairy processing power has taken another unnatural turn with these tubes of medium fat hard cheese. Pinch a bit at one end and peel it back and before you know it you'll have a cat-cradle of stringy bits of cheese on your hands. Also available in pizza flavour.

Contact your local supermarket.

sure thing

Lace Tights, £6.00

This season we've seen the return of lace, patterned and even holey tights. The most famous up until now have been Wolfords' "Follow me" version. But at £22 a throw it's expensive for a trend that may only last a season. Good old M&S have taken Wolfords at their word and produced a version of their own. They look great, keep their shape, and are available in black, chocolate and aubergine, and at £6 you can afford a pair in each colour.

Available from Marks and Spencer stores nationwide, enquiries 0171-935 4422.

Give us yesterday's daily bread

There's no doubt about it. Retro is the rage. As designers the world over run out of ideas, their "back to the future" policy is ensuring that their nests are feathered for at least another season. One has to feel sorry for the creature called the contemporary designer. It has all been done before – and better, too. So, how could they dare to compete with the unique spirit and verve which typified, say, the 1960s. So, the stealing goes on – a bit from Cardin, a strip from Courreges and a slice of Rabanne. Mix with a dash of Halston and a pinch of Fiorucci et voila – very 1990s and very, very old hat. How much more refreshing to buy the genuine article. But second-hand shops are often traps for moths and dust and charity shops, though becoming more clued up (certainly where prices are concerned), are still way be-

hind in their conscious marketing. Enter Yesterday's Bread – a rather unique concept in buying a chunk of the past. Deirdra Crowley and Bill Delmonte began collecting old clothes in the mid-80s and simply stored them. One of their first consignments was a huge quantity of white lace-up glacié kinky boots. They had an eye for things which they felt would become fashionable once again. Diligently they worked away combing forgotten warehouses and closed down shops full of Sixties and Seventies garb in ridiculous colours which are now so fashionable again. But what really makes their shop stand out is the sheer volume of stock. Where other second-hand stores deal in ones and twos, Yesterday's Bread will have several examples of the same or similar garment, in a variety of sizes. The added attraction is that most of the stock is brand-new – some

still in its original wrapping and as fresh and funky as it was in 1966 or 1976. Butterfly-bright Betty Boop mini dresses are printed with wild psychedelic patterns. Ultra-bright printed cotton shirts are fashionably underdressed to stretch over grapefruit breasts or trim pocs. Spanking brand-new flower power ties mix happily with Lord Byron's style shirt collars – all synthetic, naturally (and now, fashionably). Like so many second-hand or retro shops, Yesterday's Bread is stocked to by the designers' flunkies buying up everything they can to copy and remark as original pieces. Don't wait for them to do it. Get there first.

Yesterday's Bread is at 29 Fouberts Place, (off Carnaby Street), London W1. Tel 0171-287 1920. Prices from £20.

Robin Dutt

طوبى من لا يعمل

There has never been a finer range of imported pots to hold a beloved plant. By John Windsor

Joss Graham, 10 Eccleston Street, SW1 (0171-730 4370). Trade and Care, 73 Buteisland Street, N1 (0171-490 2493). Juniper, Central Parade, 3 Hoe Street, Walthamstow, E17 (0181-221 0562). Besma, Unit 24, Woods Building, Forest Way, Wembley, Middlesex (0181-903 0571). Catalan Classics, Patch Park Farm, Ongar Road, Abridge, Romford, Essex RM4 1AA (01708-680088). Red Mud, Linton House, 39-51 Highgate Road, NW5 (0171-2671689). Barbary Pots, 45 Farnshaw Road, SW10 (0171-352 1053).




Joss Graham, 10 Eccleston Street, SW1 (0171-730 4370). Trade and Care, 73 Buteisland Street, N1 (0171-490 2493). Juniper, Central Parade, 3 Hoe Street, Walthamstow, E17 (0181-221 0562). Besma, Unit 24, Woods Building, Forest Way, Wembley, Middlesex (0181-903 0571). Catalan Classics, Patch Park Farm, Ongar Road, Abridge, Romford, Essex RM4 1AA (01708-680088). Red Mud, Linton House, 39-51 Highgate Road, NW5 (0171-2671689). Barbary Pots, 45 Farnshaw Road, SW10 (0171-352 1053).

But the biggest imported pots are the monumental, 4ft-tall Moroccan pale terracottas imported by Barbary Pots of Chelsea. The Menara, a full-bodied

FAX: 0171 293 2505


Unusual Gifts











How would you like a unique map created from the excellent Ordnance Survey Landranger series with your town or village in the centre?

With your map the surrounding community and countryside comes alive with full-colour large scale detail (11 1/4 inches to 1 mile). Your custom-made map measures 24" x 24" and covers the area approximately 18 miles square around the selected point. Your map is laminated (recapaculated in flexible plastic), mounted on solid board and then edged in a hardwood woodgrain (also available laminated nylon). The laminated

THE PERFECT



Ordnance Survey Maps make perfect gifts

Complete satisfaction guaranteed or your money cheerfully refunded

© Ontario Copyright

EITHER ring **01392 429566** to order now **OR** send this coupon to Map Machine Ltd. FREEPOST London SW6 3BR.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

Please send us a **Landings Map** clipped out:

I enclose a cheque for £ _____

Please send all cheques payable to **MAP MACHINE LTD.**

OR please charge my credit card account (Sd list below):

☐ American Express ☐ Bursar ☐ Amex/Mastercard ☐ Visa

Credit card account number: _____

Expiry date: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Signature: _____

PLEASE ALLOW 14 DAYS POST DELIVERY.

PLEASE WRITE TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS SHOULD YOU NOT WISH TO RECEIVE FURTHER LITERATURE FROM OTHER COMPANIES.

386P

TOH ORCHIDS

The Orchid People... Singapore

Singapore Orchids are one of the world's most exciting flowers and if you're looking for a **SPECIAL GIFT** for Christmas why not send Singapore Orchids. Flown from Singapore and delivered in time for Christmas, TOH Orchids will supply their unique 30" long box full of Orchids with a special gift card. 35 Stem Box £28.99 (normal RRP £45) or 50 stems £34.00 (normal RRP £62.50). All credit cards accepted.

TOH Orchids Ltd, Unit 5 Caldervale Road, Wakefield WF1 1TE
Tel: 01924 299222 Fax: 01924 291616

 **BRITISH SCHOOL OF**  **APPROVED**
NEW
PRO

• BALLOONING
Championship Rights
 for the
Experience of a Lifetime
 Come Fly With the Professionals
 over
SLEDSURF-SURF-HUNT-HANTS-BATH
 Special Christmas Offers
 for CITY Members
01428 707 307
 For our colour brochure
<http://www.hugob.co.uk>

Christmas Competition

The Independent in association with
Royal Warrant holders

Charbonnel & Walker

of Old Bond Street, London, is offering a special box of hand-made chocolates every Sunday until 8th December in the Christmas Gift Guide Competition. Every week the first correct postcard pulled out of the Christmas sack will win the special prize.

How to Enter

There are five questions, numbered one to five, hidden amongst the Christmas Gift Guide advertisements. Once you have found them, you must find the answers. These are located within the advertisements. Send your answers, together with your name, address and daytime telephone number on a postcard to:

**Christmas Gift Guide Competition No. 1
Marketing Department, 19th Floor,
The Independent
One Canada Square, Canary Wharf,
London E14 5DL**

Closing date for Competition No. 7
Thursday, 21st November 1996

Adwatch

Selling coals to Newcastle

Xenophobia rules in British advertising, it now seems. First, came Blackcurrant Tango with the TV ad in which a purple shorts-clad Tango marketing executive challenges the world from a boxing ring erected atop the White Cliffs of Dover. Now comes the return to TV of that Northern pub and student bar favourite: Newcastle Brown Ale.

Scottish Courage is spending £4 million to freshen the image of "Newey Brown", with a TV and cinema campaign which features Howie, a Geordie returning home having travelled the world.

To celebrate his homecoming, Howie goes down the local with his mates and presents each with a gift from the exotic places he has been. Surprise, surprise the present is the same from Brazil, China, Australia, Russia and the US: a gift wrapped bottle of Tyneside's favourite ale. "Well, I didn't see anything else I thought you'd like," our friend explains.

Talk about coals to Newcastle. Only the point here is that far from being a quaint local brew, Newcastle Brown is now an international success - worth more than £125 million in the UK alone and available in more than 40 other countries around the world.

"We want to bring Newcastle Brown back to the forefront of people's minds," Scottish Courage brand director Brian Sharp diplomatically reveals. "There is a huge resurgence in interest in premium ales - a market which was moribund for quite some time. Now, people are more eager to trade up: a trend we have already seen in lagers with the success of Beck's and Stella Artois." Brian Sharp believes drinkers are after less volume but the same, or more, alcohol content. "They want drinks that taste of something - a real flavour. And they want genuine and authentic brands. Newcastle Brown fits this bill," he adds: it has been brewed in the city for almost seventy years.

This has given the ale a certain credibility abroad - notably in the US where it is now one of the country's top 20 most successful beer brands - without any advertising at all: the cognoscenti have discovered its charms purely by word of mouth.

Back in the UK, the new campaign, created by advertising agency Collett Dickinson Pearce, marks the first TV advertising for Newcastle Brown in five years. The push also includes a national poster campaign (again with an international flavour: "Tyne and Every Wear Else" runs the line). And it coincides with a bottle label promotion and sponsorship of Premiership league leaders Newcastle United.

With growing competition in the market, Newcastle Brown just can't afford to rest on its laurels. Although sales now top 250,000 barrels a year (around 72 million bottles) sales in the premium market as a whole are currently rising by around three per cent, year on year. If Scottish Courage can at least equal that, they'll certainly have something to drink to.

Meg Carter

5



2



1



3



4



6



Six of the best

As the temperature drops so coats become priority pieces of kit. Good kids coats are particularly hard to find and expense is a key factor. So we've featured a selection to suit all budgets. Although traditional duffle coats remain popular there's a new breed of anoraks, parkas and fleeces which offer multi-purpose use - with features such as zip out sleeves, button off hoods and reversible linings. Colours are bright and playful, turning the once boring jacket into a fun piece of clothing. Wear with patterned tights and neon wellies and your ready to hit the playground.

1 Karrimor red fleece jacket, £25. Fleece jackets are surprisingly shower-proof, and very light. From The Karrimor Store at North by North West, 3 Southampton Street, London WC2 (01254 385911); hat, £35.50; tights, from £25; scarf, £33, all from Oilly, 9 Sloane Street, London SW1 (01225 469259); boots, Lily's own wellie pets.

2 Fuchsia-pink and orange coat, £16.99. Good, affordable, padded shower-proof coat. From Hennes, 261-271 Regent Street, London W1 (0171 255-2031); tights, from £25 and orange rucksack, £23.50, from Oilly; bright pink wellies and pink Barbie umbrella from Woolworths.

3 Red snow bears, £19.99. Cotton outer fabric means it's warm, but not for really wet weather. From Hennes; skirt, Lily's own; tights, from £25; tartan teddy rucksack, £37.

multi-coloured wellies, from £24.50, all by Oilly.

4 Black floral coat with fake fur collar, £27.99. Comes with detachable hood and belt. Next, 160 Regent Street, London W1 (0116-284 9424); white tights, £3.50, from Boots; bright pink wellie boots, £4.50, from Woolworths.

5 Turquoise Yeti coat, £65, by Roobarb and Custard for serious Muppet Show fans; not particularly practical but very warm. The Conran Shop, Michell House, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171 83 0010); tights, Lily's own.

6 Yellow coat, £145; tights, from £25, both by Oilly. This coat is the most expensive of the bunch, but the quality is excellent. If you like to pass on clothes to friends and family, this one will last for years. Animal umbrella, £5.95, from John Lewis Boots, Lily's own.

Photographer: Tony Buckingham
Stylist: Holly Davies
Model: Lily

TEL: 0171 293 2222

classified • personal

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Independent Hearts

Replies should be addressed to the relevant box number,
c/o The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

zygosis THE PROFESSIONAL PERSON'S INTRODUCTION AGENCY

Personalised people often meet their ideal partner in their career road. That's where Zygosis can help. We are highly-skilled, experienced, successful, discreet and produce results. We look forward to your call.

LONDON: 0171 629 6979
YORKSHIRE: 0143 243 8737
SCOTLAND: 0131 556 5655
NORTH WEST: 01625 562890
NORTH EAST: 0191 261 2224
SOUTH WEST: 01323 856514
SOUTH EAST: 01323 691 300

DateLine is the world's largest, and longest-established Introduction Agency. Our unique and successful formula could easily be put to work for you.

FOR FREE DETAILS WITH NO OBLIGATION
Write To: 23 Abchurch Lane
LONDON EC4A 3DF OR CALL
(01869) 324 100

Est. 1966 - ARLA member: <http://www.date-line.co.uk>

Sara Eden "A file of grateful letters and a wall full of Wedding Photographs"

London 0171-499-9626
Windsor 01753-830350

Head office: 100 Regent Street, London W1, 1PL.
Est. 1988 Member ARA

Connect with all types of women INSTANTLY

0891 708057

SPEAK EASY

MORE LIVES. MORE WOMEN. MORE DATES.

0839 700 044
0839 400 392
0839 400 329

0171 915 6070
0171 915 6060

Victoria Telecare Ltd.
100 Victoria Road, London W14 7JF

GUSTO The dining club for gay men

0171 336 6507

MUSIC LOVERS

As featured on BBC Radio 3. A unique introduction service. The universal way to strike the perfect one with your kind of person. Meet individually or at our own musical evenings, now including concert outings.

0181 983 6211 (office)
0181 983 6212 (evenings)

TRYST

TRYST IS A NATIONWIDE INTRODUCTION BUREAU ESTABLISHED FOR OVER 10 YEARS FOR SUCCESSFUL, INTELLIGENT AND SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE SINGLE PEOPLE.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A TRULY PERSONAL SERVICE WITH SOME GENUINE VETERAN INTRODUCTIONISTS AND FEELS THAT WITHIN REACH?

TEL: 0181 937 6263
0181 937 6264

Elite Introductions

NOTES, LEADS, LINES. We have 100's of quality and well educated members, all personally interviewed at home in your local area.

Call for free details anytime
ELITE INTRODUCTIONS
0115 937 6104

SIRIUS The Intelligent Person's Introduction Agency

Call free (24 hrs) on 0800 072 0075 for a brochure

• CD or Tape with further details
• Descriptions of the best 50 people in your area you may wish to meet

0171 937 6263

drawing down the moon

"the agency people rave about"

0171 937 6263

Newspaper Publishing plc requests that Commercial Organisations do not send material to our Private Advertisers

ASSIGNATIONS Lesley Hudson-Jessop (ex Professional Headhunter)

Home interviews and professional skills lead to tailored made introductions.

M4 CORRIDOR
01225 482905

THE DINER CLUB (est. '90). The nation's only countryside dining club for successful professionals. Members aged 25+. Tel: 01244 500077. Business opportunities also available 01244 500077

JOIN CINELINK

Socialise around Cinema/Arts events in central London

Tel: 0181 800 4822
or send SAE to 138 Lordship Road London N16 0QL

NOTICE TO READERS

The Independent cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will.

When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or trusted friend know where you will be.

We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

Mamas'n'Pappas Educated ladies who combine career with home and child, professional and successful gentlemen. A definitive clientele for the discerning. 'new in our 17th year'

0181-769 6805

PERSONAL

madam, are you ready for L'AFFAIRE

A new concept in discreet relationships for Gentlemen and Ladies

L'AFFAIRE
Brighton & Hove
For Free Colour brochure Phone 0402 865087

Charities

Provides a safe haven for sailors

Life at sea has always put pressure on naval families. By making a donation or leaving a legacy to Royal Sailors' Rests now you can help us provide a 'home from home' and Christmas care for sailors and their families. Please send for details of legacy gifts, or make your donation to Royal Sailors' Rests Dept. LD53, FREEPOST PT202, St George's Business Centre, PORTSMOUTH PO1 3YV. Telephone No 01705 295853 Registered Charity No. 235748

For some it's the fashion...

For Debra Turner it was a nightmare.

You've seen what the treatment for Leukaemia can do. Debra will never forget it. She's fought and she's won. But while people like Debra are fighting they need support, and their families need support. Leukaemia CARE lends its caring support in so many ways - befriending, providing limited assistance for hospital visits, carpal holidays and other related costs. Care for the 31,000 sufferers - many of them so young - and care for those who watch over them.

The Leukaemia CARE Society

14 Kingfisher Court (SBNL), Vanny Bridge, Exeter, Devon EX4 8JN
Tel: 01392 464848 Registered Charity 250483

CONGRATULATIONS!!

We are delighted to hear from all the couples who have met and married through INDEPENDENT HEARTS.

Wishing you and all our other advertisers every success and happiness for the future.

INDEPENDENT HEARTS

To advertise in this section please call Seema Chaudhry on 0171 293 2347.

INDEPENDENT HEARTS
The Independent Way to Meet New People

By placing an advertisement in the The Independent Hearts section of The Independent and the Independent on Sunday you will immediately be in contact with over 1.66 million readers.*

The cost for your advertisement, published in the first available editions of the Saturday "Weekend" and Sunday "Real Life" sections is just £5.00 per line including V.A.T. (Box No is an additional £10.00, please cross here if you do not require a Box No [X]).

Simply write your advertisement in the spaces below and fill in the coupon - Minimum 2 lines.
(N.B. A character is a letter, a number, a punctuation mark and a space between words)

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Telephone (daytime): _____
Signature: _____

All advertisements must be prepaid. Cheques should be made payable to Newspaper Publishing Plc or debit mv:

☐ Access ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Others Club Card expiry date: _____ Card No: _____

Send all advertisements to:
Independent Hearts: The Independent, 19th Floor, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL • Telephone: 0171 293 2347 • Fax: 0171 293 2505
This offer is only open to private advertisers. Trade enquiries are welcome on the above telephone number.

*NRS Jan - June '95

Sunday television and radio

BBC 1

7.30 The Flying Doctors (R) (S) (1260494).
8.15 Twenty Steps to Better Management (3579369).
8.30 Breakfast with Frost (49727).
9.30 The Big Question. Mark Lawson and David Puttnam on the meaning of life, etc (4734433).
9.45 First Light (S) (415307).
10.15 See Heart Ponders the new Disability Discrimination Act (S) (407388).
10.45 Deutschland Plus (S) (3709659).
11.00 The Eleventh Hour (S) (32663).
12.00 Countryfile (S) (81497).
12.30 On the Record (including News) (19833).
1.30 EastEnders Omnibus (R) (S) (5101630).
2.55 Children in Need - the Encore (S) (7565543).
3.15 Cartoon (2817272).
3.30 Bitesize. Viewers like issue (6735765).
4.10 The Bookworm. Tours the late John Betjeman's Cornish haunt and chats to author Terry McKilliam. Plus, a pick of the gardening books (5719017).
4.40 The Clothes Show (1880456).
5.05 Lorraine. Gavin Campbell appeals on behalf of Sight Savers International (S) (637524).
5.15 The Prince and the Pauper. 2/6. Continuing the Mark Twain adaptation. Tom Carty is unable to convince anyone of his true identity (S) (295630).
5.45 News, Weather (879340).
5.55 Regional News (899104).
6.10 Songs of Praise. Sir Harry Secombe and chums celebrate 50 years in showbiz (S) (574272).
6.45 Last of the Summer Wine (R) (S) (285253).
7.15 Antiques Roadshow. Valuations from Chesham in Gwent (245271).
8.00 Ruby Wax Meets the Duchess of York. See Preview, p30 (S) (6036).
8.30 The Tenant of Wildfield Hall. 1/2. See Preview, p30 (Continued after the News) (S) (307578).
9.25 News, Weather (798475).
9.40 The Tenant of Wildfield Hall 2/3 (307678).
10.35 Clive Anderson All Talk (S) (798630).
11.10 Eyewitness. A report on the controversy surrounding the landmark service at Southwark Cathedral marking 20 years of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement (S) (123).
11.50 Accused. More dramatic cases from the magistrates' court. Carol is accused of throwing boiling water over an ex-boyfriend (S) (657982).
12.20 Wildflower (Diane Keaton 1991 US). In rural Georgia, 1938, a partly-deaf, epileptic girl (Patricia Arquette) is imprisoned by her stepfather, who thinks she is possessed by the Devil, in a filthy outhouse. She is discovered by a neighbour's children, who decide to secretly educate and nurture her. Beau Bridges and Susan Blakely co-star (S) (5303944).
1.50 Weather (1124050). To 1.55am.

BBC 2

7.30 Children's BBC: Joe 90. 7.55 Playdays. 8.15 Bits. 8.30 Jeckerson Gold. 8.50 The Littlest Pet Shop. 9.15 The Way They Play. 9.35 Mask. 10.00 Ship to Shore. 10.30 Grange Hill. 10.55 The Queen's Nose. 11.20 As Seen on TV.
11.45 Shooting Stars. Shown on Friday (S) (493185).
12.15 The Sunday Show. Donna McPhail hosts the Sunday brunch beans (2633456).
1.00 The O Zone (S) (326811).
1.30 Residual Programmes (S) (25291).
2.00 Ice Skating. Highlights from this week's British Ice Skating championships in Guildford. Commentary by Barry Davies and Karen Barber (565792).
2.50 Tennis. The final of the National championship from Telford. See the big match, p30 (74796185).
4.50 Rugby Special. Includes highlights of Leicester v Harlequins, Cardiff v Bath and Ulster v Australia (568104).
5.50 National World. The Himalayas encompass deserts, glaciers and forests and a correspondingly diverse wildlife. Here they are (Followed by Heading South, Weather) (S) (256104).
6.45 Star Trek: Voyager (S) (813833).
7.30 American Visions. Robert Hughes explores America's majestic landscape from the Hudson river to the Rockies, finding out how it has influenced American artists (S) (67494).
8.30 The Money Programme. How the French and Italian wine trades are being revolutionised by the boom in "New World" wines (S) (197388).
9.10 Cogan's Run: Thursday Night Fever. The talented Steve Cogan turns himself into Mike Crystal, an entertainer on the Northern club circuit whose career is going nowhere (R) (S) (600611).
9.40 Horizon. The first of a two-part investigation into why science was so ill-equipped to deal with BSE or "mad cow disease", which was first detected in Britain 10 years ago (Followed by Video Action Shots) (S) (238104).
10.35 The Crow Road 2/4. Second sitting in Banks adaptation (R) (S) (162982).
11.35 The Cool and the Crazy (Ralph Bakshi 1993 US). Alicia Silverstone, whose career has gone from rags to riches, plays a young woman who has with her safe marriage and tempted by the local hoodlum (Then Weather) (S) (307920). To 1.05am.
2.00 The Learning Zone: Nice Work (43505). 4.00 Languages: Suenos: World Spanish (50215). 5.00 Business and Work: The Small Business Programme (47321). To 6.00am.
REGIONS. Wales: 1.30pm Welsh Lobby. 5.00 Scrums. 5.45. 1.30pm Scottish Lobby. 1.30pm A State Apart.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV 6.00 The Sunday Review. 6.30 News, Sport and Weather. 7.00 The Sunday Programme (65253).
8.00 Dragon Flyz (99388).
8.30 Disney Club (S) (63583369).
10.15 Link (S) (1862765).
10.30 Sunday Live. The Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement celebrates its 20th anniversary, and the former test cricket umpire, Dickie Bird, talks about retirement (S) (81433).
11.00 Morning Worship. From St Patrick's, Tactelt (S) (31949).
12.00 Sunday Live. Continued (S) (92475).
12.30 CrossTalk (Followed by LWT Weather) (20746).
1.00 News and Weather (86493494).
1.10 Jonathan Dimbleby. Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell and his Labour counterpart, Chris Smith, on the future of the NHS (S) (336030).
2.00 War and Remembrance. D-Day (R) (886776).
3.45 The Miner's Daughter (Michael Apted 1980 US). Sissy Spacek does her own singing in her Oscar-winning portrayal of a poor, rich country's western star, Loretta Lynn. With Tommy Lee Jones as her husband (80018104).
6.00 Dining Out. The fast-food revolution (S) (659).
6.30 Local News, Weather (375272).
6.45 News and Weather (398122).
7.00 One in a Million (S) (2456).
7.30 Heartbeat. A routine domestic disturbance takes a sinister turn (S) (54920).
8.30 You've Been Framed! You wish someone would frame Jeremy Beadle (S) (4681).
9.00 London's Burning. Blue Watch helps a cyclist in a sticky situation, while Newcomer Skip tries to talk down a suicidal girl (S) (2920).
10.00 Sometimes, Never. Zzzzzzz (S) (93104).
10.30 News and Weather (Followed by LWT Weather) (S) (31388).
10.45 The South Bank Show. Jimmy McGovern profiled. See Preview, p30 (S) (510611).
11.45 Theatreland. Emma Freud and Sheridan Morley review the latest first nights (S) (572291).
12.15 Miami Vice (3430215).
1.10 Coach (R) (S) (4245857).
1.45 Bloody Mama (Roger Corman 1970 US). Tasteless but riotous post-Bonnie and Clyde celebration of the infamous 1930s bank robbery-murder clan, the Barker family. Shelley Long is the maternal Ma Barker, and look out for Robert De Niro as her drug son (S) (333166).
3.25 Not Fade Away. DJ Simon Bates and his favourite pop records (R) (S) (60554166).
4.35 Flux (R) (S) (8867233).
5.30 News (97079). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.20 80/20 (5611456).
7.15 Ric (22494).
7.45 Biker Mice from Mars (4921814).
8.10 Earthworm Jim (4976185).
8.35 Street Sharks (6767272).
9.00 Inseparables (S) (6165185).
9.20 Saved by the Bell (R) (398920).
9.45 Sister Sister (S) (408017).
10.15 Wise Up (S) (490098).
10.45 Holyoaks Omnibus (S) (5652727).
11.40 The Waltons (R) (2552746).
12.40 Rookies. Includes an interview with football heart-throb, Jamie Redknapp (S) (4027272).
1.10 Little Jack Little. Short from 1934 (65149299).
1.30 Racing from Cheltenham. Brough Scott introduces the 1.40 Food Brokers-Gloystarne Handicap Chase, 2.15 Murphy's Novices' Handicap Hurdle, 2.50 Sporting Index Chase and the 3.25 Stakes Casinos November Novices' Chase (R) (501307).
3.45 News Summary (7446901).
3.50 Football Italia Highlights (2429727).
4.50 The Four Feathers (Zoltan Korda 1939 UK). A rare chance to see the Korda brothers' wonderful remake of AEW Mason's imperial yam - with John Clements as the man accused of cowardice by his comrades and loved one (June Duprez), who redeems himself against the natives in Sudan. Also with Ralph Richardson and C Aubrey-Smith (86334678).
7.00 Equinox: Kaboom! The history of explosives, from the day a 13th-century monk recorded the formula for gunpowder in coded Latin - in an attempt to control its production - to when Alfred Nobel developed a safe way of producing nitroglycerine (R) (S) (1678).
8.00 Travels with My Camera. See Preview, p30 (S) (7098).
9.00 The Real AUF Wiederschen Pet. Repeat Undercover Britain report about what it's really like to be one of the 60,000 or so British construction workers in Germany (R) (2291).
9.30 The Deer Hunter (Michael Cimino 1978 US). See the big picture, p30 (S) (1004562).
12.50 Partners (S) (3357050).
1.20 Chronicle of a Death Foretold (Francesco Rosi 1987 W/F). A badly miscast Rupert Everett puts the chronicle into this chronicle - Rosi's misfiring adaptation of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's tale of a Colombian girl rejected by her husband on their wedding night (S) (9890156).
3.25 The Lone Wolf Meets a Lady (Sidney Salkow 1940 US). Warren William is the Lone Wolf, Jean Muir is the lady - a socialite charged with robbery and murder (R) (340215). To 4.35am.

ITV/Regions

As London except 2.00pm Kick Off Live (8504478). 4.15 World of Wonder (5636388). 4.40 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (511104). 5.35 Love Chronicles (620163). 6.05 Out to Lunch with Ben Turner (218456). 11.45 Film: Madly (6824727). 1.55am The Loop (5327499). 2.55am Funny Business (2528876). 3.55am Sportscape (1322673). 3.55am The Crime Hour (379932). 4.25-4.55am Sound bites (7607925).

CHANNEL 4 NORTH EAST/NUSSIDE
As London except 12.30pm Channel 4 North East. Newsweek (4004123). 1.30pm Kick Off Live (8504478). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.35 A World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 6.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 7.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 8.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 9.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 10.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 11.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 12.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 1.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 2.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 3.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 4.30 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.00 The World of Wonder (5636388). 5.30 The World of



The big picture

The Deer Hunter
Sun 9.30pm C4

Put the puerile, romanticised view of friendship and battle aside for one moment – and indeed the film's whole reactionary spin on the Vietnam war – and there's no denying the pulp power of Michael Cimino's story of three Pennsylvania steelworkers fighting together in Southeast Asia. You may not like what Cimino has to say, but you can't deny the intensity with which he says it. A fine cast includes Robert De Niro, Christopher Walken and Meryl Streep.

Television preview

Recommended viewing this weekend
by Gerard Gilbert

Watching the BBC's new costume drama, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (Sun BBC1), I kept wondering what it was I was reminded of. Then the answer came to me – it was *EastEnders*.

The trouble with so many of these TV adaptations of literary classics is that, strip away the authorial voice, and what you are left with are the bare bones of melodrama. This really hit home during the second half of tomorrow night's opener, when we are discovering the exact nature of Helen Graham's dark past. Her cad of a husband, played by Rupert Graves, is David Wicks (albeit with lashings of Richard E Grant in Withnail-on-a-bender mode), and his drinking problem is one we sat through with Phil Mitchell a couple of weeks ago. So what is left to elevate this beyond *EastEnders*? The frocks? The Brontë country locations? Tara Fitzgerald's cheekbones?

Now, I never saw the highly regarded (especially among the broody) *Baby It's You*, but I understand it was a Desmond Morris-type series about how tiny tots perceive the world. From the same people comes

A Dog's World (Sat C4), and, well, you get the picture. Dogs, however, don't – seeing only in ill-focused wide angle – and then in greens and blues (when it comes to sniffing, running and hearing, however, we're the duces). Since these domesticated wolves do not grow up until they have hunted and killed, 99.99 per cent of pet pooches are kept in a state of permanent adolescence. No wonder we get on with them so well.

Talking of dogs – a quick word about *Dallas Doll* (Sat BBC2). That word contains four letters, and it's what dogs do too often on the pavement. The only consolation about this obscure *Screen Two* is that the costs, dear licence-payer, were shared with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. I can hardly bring myself to waste the brain cells in description – suffice it to say it involves a New York golf pro (Sandra Bernhard – well quite) insinuating herself into the lives and beds of a suburban Aussie family.

The writer Jimmy McGovern tells Melvyn Bragg in this week's *South Bank Show* (Sun ITV) how he stopped himself from stammering as a child by making himself angry. McGovern, most famous for his work

on *Cracker* (watching him chain smoke, you feel you know where Fitz got his tobacco habit from) is currently hot under the collar about the Hillsborough football disaster – and the disgraceful way, from the police to the Sun, a lot of people behaved. Along the usual biographical parabola we see snapshots of McGovern's teeth-cutting work on *Brookside*, which runs home how that soap seems to have lost its way.

The BBC has obviously run a three-line whip for *The Huw Weldon Memorial Lecture* (Sat BBC2), in which every TV presenter still alive (with the exception of David Attenborough, who is no doubt in some inaccessible corner of Borneo, wise man) has been corralled into a studio to listen to BBC chief executive Will Wyatt. It reminded me of those gruesome TITV *An Audience With...* jobs. And finally – having told Oprah last week that she couldn't go on, here's Fergie again – in *Ruby Wax Meets the Duchess of York* (Sun BBC1). It beats me why anyone hoping to retain a shred of dignity would submit themselves to Ruby Wax. Masochism isn't usually a word I associate with Sarah Ferguson. She ditched the Windsors, didn't she.



The big match

Guardian Direct Tennis
Sun 2.50pm BBC2

For the first time since 1978, Britain has two men tennis players, Tim Henman (above) and Greg Rusedski, in the ATP top 50. Last year, Henman beat Rusedski in the National Championship final – and the seeding, if not recent form, suggests a similar encounter on Sunday.



Saturday television and radio

BBC 1

- 7.00 *The Pink Panther Show* (R) (1872784).
7.25 *News*, Weather (2477448).
7.30 *Children's BBC: The Morph Files*. 7.40 *Speed Racer*. 8.05 *The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest*.
8.30 *The New Adventures of Superman* (R) (3762326).
9.15 *Live and Kicking*. With Mark Owen, Jimmy Nail and Steve Cogan (55303149).
12.12 *Weather* (4005177).
12.15 *Footballdom*. Introduced by Steve Rider. 12.20 *Goal Focus*. 1.00 *News*. 1.05 *Figure Skating*: from Quilford. 1.25 *Motor Racing*: from Donington Park. One-off race over 80 laps, which has attracted many of the top drivers who took part in this season's British Touring Car Championship. 2.00 *Tennis*: from Telford. 3.45 *Rugby Union*: live second-half coverage of Leicester v Harlequins. 4.30 *Tennis*. 4.45 *Final Score* (S) (38762055).
5.25 *News*, Weather (7612887).
5.35 *Regional News and Weather* (2606222).
5.40 *Children in Need*. Gaby Roslin and Terry Wogan present next Friday's fundraiser (S) (256413).
5.55 *Jim Davidson's Generation Game*. *Antiques Roadshow* expert Eric Knowles and Cannon and Ball help out (S) (321210).
6.55 *Neel's Home Party*. Ian St John earns a Gotha from serial pen palster Noel Edmunds (S) (584790).
7.50 *The National Lottery Live*. Bryan Adams gets the balls rolling (78245).
8.05 *Casualty*. So farewell then, Dr Mike Barratt. Meanwhile, the truth is revealed about a teenager whose parents think she must be pregnant (S) (863790).
8.55 *News and Sport*, Weather (Followed by National Lottery Update) (634158).
9.15 *The Substitute* (Martin Donovan 1993 US). Amanda Donohoe is believable enough as the high school teacher who will go to any lengths to hide her dark past: Look out for Marky Mark as one of the pupils at her new school (S) (757581).
10.40 *Match of the Day*. Manchester United v Arsenal is the main event. Hansen and Brookling chew the cud (S) (376050).
11.50 *The Stand-Up Show*. With Ed Byrne, Phil Nichol, Keith Dower and Ashdown last night (S) (273535).
12.25 *Top of the Pops*. As shown last night, with Mark Owen, East 17, Woolpackers, Backstreet Boys and Robson and Jerome live in the studio (R) (4835456).
12.55 *Annex*. In the Park. The green space in question is New York's Central Park, and this live set – La Lennox's first in six years – took place in September 1995 (R) (S) (1924123).
1.55 *Weather* (1163949).
REGIONS. Wales: 2.00pm *Rugby*. Cardiff v Bath. Scot: 10.40pm *Sportscene*. Match of the Day. NI: 2.00pm *Rugby Union*. 4.00 *Tennis*. 11.50 *The Hole in the Wall Gang*. 12.25 *The Stand Up Show*. 12.55 *Top of the Pops*. 1.30 *Annex*. In the Park. 2.30 *Weather*.

BBC 2

- 7.10 *The Saint Takes Over* (Jack Hively 1940 UK). George Sanders helps a bobby friend who is being framed by race-track gamblers (3707210).
8.20 *Open University: Regions Apart* (3496021). 9.10 *A Language for Movement* (314968). 9.35 *Managing Biodiversity* (7471090).
10.00 *Chanakya*. Indian historical saga (S) (3974069).
10.35 *Network East* (S) (6691500).
11.20 *Bollywood or Bust* (S) (9217806).
11.50 *Australia Wild* (6901535).
12.20 *Film 96 with Barry Norman*. *The First Wives Club*. *True Blue*. And *The Island of Dr Moreau* are re-released (S) (R) (4064239).
12.50 *My Man Godfrey* (Henry Kostel 1937 US). The story of a man who is hired as a butler to a wealthy couple. The film is a real-life husband and wife couple (the Castles were pre-First World War ballroom-dance sensations) and by the biopic form itself (4398177).
2.20 *Paper Tiger* (Ken Annakin 1976 UK). The first of two David Niven films finds our man playing a cowardly, mild-mannered tutor to the young son of the Japanese ambassador, who gets to show some bravery. Toshirō Mifune co-stars (505581).
3.55 *My Man Godfrey* (Henry Kostel 1937 US). Slightly better, but not much, this one finds Niven as an Austrian exile living illegally in the US, covering his tracks by taking a job as butler to a family of upper-crust oddballs (5350603).
5.25 *TOTP 2* (S) (5989239).
6.15 *The Huw Weldon Memorial Lecture*. See Preview, above (336500).
7.00 *News and Sport*, Weather (1969993).
7.15 *Assignment*. Although General Alexander Lebed has been ousted from the Kremlin in a power struggle with President Yeltsin, he still harbours ambitions to rule Russia. Tom Carver followed him during the events of his recent banishment (S) (186852).
8.00 *What the Papers Say* (S) (478429).
8.10 *The Road from Janina*. Dennis Skinner and the Independent's Polly Toynbee are to be found on Sir Bernard Ingham's continuing history lesson about Britain since 1936. The deterioration of society is this week's main theme (S) (672159).
8.40 *The Car's the Star*. *Top of the Pops* (205061).
9.00 *Have I Got News for You* (R) (S) (6332).
9.30 *Screen Two*. *Dallas Doll*. See Preview, above (S) (482878).
11.10 *Later with Jools Holland*. Metallica, Donovan, and Catatonia feature (S) (320142).
12.10 *The Big Silence* (Sergio Corbucci 1967 It). Excellent – and very dark – spaghetti western set in 1896 Utah, where bounty hunter Klaus Kinski is picking off outlaws driven to find shelter in the local villages – until mute gunfighter Jean-Louis Trintignant steps in the way. The score is by Ennio Morricone (Followed by *Weather*) (814036).
* To 2.00am.

ITV/London

- 6.00 *GMTV*. 6.00 *News*. 6.10 *Mole in the Hole*. 6.30 *Professor Bumble*. 6.50 *Bug Alert*. 7.10 *Disney's Wake Up in the Wild*. 8.00 *Gargoyles*. 8.50 *Alien Rangers* (1874177).
9.25 *Wow*. With John Pickard and Claire Budfield from *2 point 4 Children*, *EastEnders* heartthrobs Paul Nicholls, and Ant and Dec (S) (7213841).
11.00 *The Noise*. Andi Peters goes behind the scenes at the 1996 MTV European Music Awards (3622).
11.30 *The Chart Show* (S) (74264).
12.30 *Champions of the Future* (505055).
1.00 *News and Weather* (3855797).
1.05 *Local News*, Weather (3855698).
1.10 *Champions League Special*. Preview of next Wednesday's games, including Manchester United's big test against Juventus (7931852).
1.45 *Movies*, Games and Videos (828142).
2.15 *Cartoon Time* (4667093).
2.20 *Mister Ten Per Cent* (Peter Graham Scott 1967 UK). Builder Charlie Drake turns his questionable talents to writing drama. With Derek Nimmo and John Le Mesurier (4878239).
3.50 *seaQuest 2032*. They all live in a futuristic submarine. A tiny black hole in the fusion reactor hurries the crew back to the Cuban missile crisis of October 1962 (S) (2536061).
4.45 *News*, Sports Results, Weather (5871055).
5.05 *London Tonight*. Sports Results (Followed by *LWT Weather*) (3021719).
5.20 *New Baywatch*. Mitch leads a group of junior lifeguards on a survival training weekend. It all goes horribly wrong (S) (7087121).
6.15 *Gladiators* (S) (476719).
7.15 *Blind Date* (Including National Lottery Results) (S) (465603).
8.15 *Family Fortunes* (S) (689581).
8.45 *ITN News*, Weather, Lottery Result (Followed by *LWT Weather*) (632790).
9.00 *Sheepless in Seattle* (Mora Ephron 1993 US). Meg Ryan dusts down her character from *When Harry Met Sally*, this time to beat a twisty path to true love with the recently bereaved Tom Hanks (whose young son has been sacrificing for him on the late-night radio airwaves). Largely enjoyable, if you can live with the vigorous punning of the switch marked 'romance'. Bill Pullman – as Ryan's dull but dependable fiancé, and later her co-star (23828142).
10.55 *MTV Europe Music Awards 1996*. Coverage of Europe's biggest music awards, from London's Alexandra Palace. (1307177).
12.25 *Funny Business*. (S) (1906727).
1.00 *Revealing Evidence* (Michael Switzer 1990 US). A jaded cop gets involved with a female prosecutor when they both find themselves on the trail of a serial killer in Hawaii. No stars (80730).
2.30 *The Chart Show* (R) (S) (2927949).
3.20 *ET News Review* (7997524).
4.10 *God's Gift* (R) (3191814).
5.05 *Coach* (R) (S) (2682562). To 5.30am.

Channel 4

- 6.00 *Sesame Street* (1249622).
6.55 *The Magic School Bus* (3708697).
7.30 *Really Wild Animals* (7580622).
7.50 *First World*. With Jon Snow. (2120535).
8.05 *King Arthur and the Knights of Justice* (S) (83784).
8.35 *Hang Time* (6790500).
9.00 *The Morning Line* (30974).
10.00 *Gazzetta Football Italia*. Italian football magazine (40264).
11.00 *Biff's American football magazine* (S) (57500).
12.00 *Sign On*. Ponders at marriages between deaf and hearing people (S) (25326).
12.30 *In the Company of Whales*. Oceanic pollution and associated whaling grief (R) (S) (77351).
2.00 *Barney and the Chameleons*. Though Scott introduces the 2.20 Murphy's Draught Hurdle (H Cap), the 2.55 Murphy's Gold Cup Handicap Chase, the 3.30 *Foxes Original Handicap Chase*, and the 4.05 *Mackeson Novices' Hurdle* (S) (3409871).
4.35 *Four Nations*. Electric Passions. Considers theme park rides, and the Oscar-nominated film, *The End* (S) (4126260).
5.05 *Brookside Omnibus* (S) (412546).
6.00 *Right to Reply* (S) (531).
7.00 *News Summary and Weather* (1926977).
7.10 *A Week in Politics* (S) (183245).
8.00 *A Dog's World*. See Preview, above (S) (9535).
9.00 *EP*. Green's day goes from bad to worse when he makes a bad impression on the new department head (R) (S) (745530).
9.55 *Jon Brind*. *Through the Catalyst* (R) (S) (616968).
10.25 *NYPD Blue*. Simone and Sipowicz investigate the murder of a gay bar owner (R) (S) (456270).
11.25 *WW and the Duke*. *Dances with Wolves*. *Avignon 1975*. *US*. *Amiable* – if you're into the thing – year in which 1950s television's most renowned takes cover as the manager of a country musicians, while being haunted by an Evangelist detective, Art Carney (possibly the most interesting element of the movie). *Next* *Beauty and the Beast* co-star (422210).
1.05 *Late Lancashire*. *Manga 3's Eyes* (S) (7464746).
2.05 *The New Tonight Show*. *Shy* waitress, Shelley Duval receives a message from a hating saloon during her lunch hour (S) (2354291).
2.35 *United States of Television*. You don't have to delve into American TV any more to copy up with jaw-dropping innuendo and breath-taking surrealism. Some of the stuff on Sky and cable TV in this country is equally gob-smacking. My own personal favourite comedy – outside Richard and Judy's incomparable *This Morning* – is the QVC shopping channel, which gets utterly surreal (9997123).
3.20 *Full Frontal*. Comedy sketches from Australia (6713145).
3.50 *The Real World*. Briefly influential house-share verité – and it looks as if romance could be in the air for two of the San Francisco co-habites (S) (587825). To 4.00am.

ITV/Regions

- AREA 1**
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40 *Touring Cars* (29942719). 2.10 *Alvin* (2933158). 3.10 *Film: Dreams of Gold*. The *Mill* *Fisher Story* (70657413). 12.25pm *Cartoon Network* (2545726). 1.30pm *Film: Labyrinth*. The *Forbidden* *Dance* (453920). 3.10pm *Heller Street* (7991340). 4.00pm *Film: The Gentle Rep* (5562). 5.00-5.30pm *Sailing* (37307).
AREA 2
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40 *Film: Rules the World* (3959326). 3.45 *Amor* (541448). 5.10 *Channel 3 North East* *Full Time* (645061). *Notes*. *Scoreline* (645061). 10.55 *Film: Victim of Beauty* (7077835). 12.25pm *Funny Business* (3362524). 1.05pm *Cartoon* (672727). 1.35pm *Film and Remembrance* (64543). 3.25pm *Late & Loud* (7319949). 4.25pm *Movie*. *She Woke* (5661543). 5.15-5.30pm *Sound Bites* (3405639).
AREA 3
As London except 12.30pm *Premiere* (55055). 1.30 *Sport*. *Guests* (6558158). 1.25 *Champions League Special* (5951412). 1.55 *Eastern Mix* (29931603). 2.25 *Movies*, Games and Videos (57116239). 3.55 *Amor* (1907239). 3.50 *RoboCop* (2358061). 5.10 *Cartoon* (645061). 4.10pm *Editor* (5081039). 5.20-5.30pm *Asian Eye* (1234098).
AREA 4
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40-4.05 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 12.45 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 1.40 *West No Nosed*. *Film* (7023887). *Wales*. *The Electric Chair* (2942719). 2.10 *Movies*. *Movies*, Games and Videos (7074948). 2.40 *Film: The Magician* *Knowledge* (1943727). 3.00pm *Film: Labyrinth*. The *Forbidden* *Dance* (453920). 3.10pm *Film: She Woke* (7991340). 4.00pm *Film: The Gentle Rep* (5562). 5.00-5.30pm *World of Sailing* (37307).
AREA 5
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40-4.05 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 12.45 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 1.40 *West No Nosed*. *Film* (7023887). *Wales*. *The Electric Chair* (2942719). 2.10 *Movies*. *Movies*, Games and Videos (7074948). 2.40 *Film: The Magician* *Knowledge* (1943727). 3.00pm *Film: Labyrinth*. The *Forbidden* *Dance* (453920). 3.10pm *Film: She Woke* (7991340). 4.00pm *Film: The Gentle Rep* (5562). 5.00-5.30pm *World of Sailing* (37307).
AREA 6
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40-4.05 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 12.45 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 1.40 *West No Nosed*. *Film* (7023887). *Wales*. *The Electric Chair* (2942719). 2.10 *Movies*. *Movies*, Games and Videos (7074948). 2.40 *Film: The Magician* *Knowledge* (1943727). 3.00pm *Film: Labyrinth*. The *Forbidden* *Dance* (453920). 3.10pm *Film: She Woke* (7991340). 4.00pm *Film: The Gentle Rep* (5562). 5.00-5.30pm *World of Sailing* (37307).
AREA 7
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40-4.05 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 12.45 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 1.40 *West No Nosed*. *Film* (7023887). *Wales*. *The Electric Chair* (2942719). 2.10 *Movies*. *Movies*, Games and Videos (7074948). 2.40 *Film: The Magician* *Knowledge* (1943727). 3.00pm *Film: Labyrinth*. The *Forbidden* *Dance* (453920). 3.10pm *Film: She Woke* (7991340). 4.00pm *Film: The Gentle Rep* (5562). 5.00-5.30pm *World of Sailing* (37307).
AREA 8
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40-4.05 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 12.45 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 1.40 *West No Nosed*. *Film* (7023887). *Wales*. *The Electric Chair* (2942719). 2.10 *Movies*. *Movies*, Games and Videos (7074948). 2.40 *Film: The Magician* *Knowledge* (1943727). 3.00pm *Film: Labyrinth*. The *Forbidden* *Dance* (453920). 3.10pm *Film: She Woke* (7991340). 4.00pm *Film: The Gentle Rep* (5562). 5.00-5.30pm *World of Sailing* (37307).
AREA 9
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40-4.05 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 12.45 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 1.40 *West No Nosed*. *Film* (7023887). *Wales*. *The Electric Chair* (2942719). 2.10 *Movies*. *Movies*, Games and Videos (7074948). 2.40 *Film: The Magician* *Knowledge* (1943727). 3.00pm *Film: Labyrinth*. The *Forbidden* *Dance* (453920). 3.10pm *Film: She Woke* (7991340). 4.00pm *Film: The Gentle Rep* (5562). 5.00-5.30pm *World of Sailing* (37307).
AREA 10
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40-4.05 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 12.45 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 1.40 *West No Nosed*. *Film* (7023887). *Wales*. *The Electric Chair* (2942719). 2.10 *Movies*. *Movies*, Games and Videos (7074948). 2.40 *Film: The Magician* *Knowledge* (1943727). 3.00pm *Film: Labyrinth*. The *Forbidden* *Dance* (453920). 3.10pm *Film: She Woke* (7991340). 4.00pm *Film: The Gentle Rep* (5562). 5.00-5.30pm *World of Sailing* (37307).
AREA 11
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40-4.05 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 12.45 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 1.40 *West No Nosed*. *Film* (7023887). *Wales*. *The Electric Chair* (2942719). 2.10 *Movies*. *Movies*, Games and Videos (7074948). 2.40 *Film: The Magician* *Knowledge* (1943727). 3.00pm *Film: Labyrinth*. The *Forbidden* *Dance* (453920). 3.10pm *Film: She Woke* (7991340). 4.00pm *Film: The Gentle Rep* (5562). 5.00-5.30pm *World of Sailing* (37307).
AREA 12
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40-4.05 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 12.45 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 1.40 *West No Nosed*. *Film* (7023887). *Wales*. *The Electric Chair* (2942719). 2.10 *Movies*. *Movies*, Games and Videos (7074948). 2.40 *Film: The Magician* *Knowledge* (1943727). 3.00pm *Film: Labyrinth*. The *Forbidden* *Dance* (453920). 3.10pm *Film: She Woke* (7991340). 4.00pm *Film: The Gentle Rep* (5562). 5.00-5.30pm *World of Sailing* (37307).
AREA 13
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40-4.05 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 12.45 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 1.40 *West No Nosed*. *Film* (7023887). *Wales*. *The Electric Chair* (2942719). 2.10 *Movies*. *Movies*, Games and Videos (7074948). 2.40 *Film: The Magician* *Knowledge* (1943727). 3.00pm *Film: Labyrinth*. The *Forbidden* *Dance* (453920). 3.10pm *Film: She Woke* (7991340). 4.00pm *Film: The Gentle Rep* (5562). 5.00-5.30pm *World of Sailing* (37307).
AREA 14
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40-4.05 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 12.45 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 1.40 *West No Nosed*. *Film* (7023887). *Wales*. *The Electric Chair* (2942719). 2.10 *Movies*. *Movies*, Games and Videos (7074948). 2.40 *Film: The Magician* *Knowledge* (1943727). 3.00pm *Film: Labyrinth*. The *Forbidden* *Dance* (453920). 3.10pm *Film: She Woke* (7991340). 4.00pm *Film: The Gentle Rep* (5562). 5.00-5.30pm *World of Sailing* (37307).
AREA 15
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40-4.05 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 12.45 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 1.40 *West No Nosed*. *Film* (7023887). *Wales*. *The Electric Chair* (2942719). 2.10 *Movies*. *Movies*, Games and Videos (7074948). 2.40 *Film: The Magician* *Knowledge* (1943727). 3.00pm *Film: Labyrinth*. The *Forbidden* *Dance* (453920). 3.10pm *Film: She Woke* (7991340). 4.00pm *Film: The Gentle Rep* (5562). 5.00-5.30pm *World of Sailing* (37307).
AREA 16
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40-4.05 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 12.45 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 1.40 *West No Nosed*. *Film* (7023887). *Wales*. *The Electric Chair* (2942719). 2.10 *Movies*. *Movies*, Games and Videos (7074948). 2.40 *Film: The Magician* *Knowledge* (1943727). 3.00pm *Film: Labyrinth*. The *Forbidden* *Dance* (453920). 3.10pm *Film: She Woke* (7991340). 4.00pm *Film: The Gentle Rep* (5562). 5.00-5.30pm *World of Sailing* (37307).
AREA 17
As London except 12.30pm *Movies*, Games and Videos (55055). 1.40-4.05 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 12.45 *Wales: Rugby 2000* (17077142). 1.40 *West No Nosed*. *Film* (7023887). *Wales*. *The Electric Chair* (2942719). 2.10 *Movies*. *Movies*, Games and Videos (7074948). 2.40 *Film: The Magician* *Knowledge* (1943727). 3.00pm *Film: Labyrinth*. The

١٥٥٠ من الامل

match
ect Terms

gions

n



SUPPOSED TO BE BULKY AND BORING. WE HAVE SOME EXPLAINING TO DO.

THE MAJORITY of estate cars, it has to be said, tend to look as if they were designed as a bit of an afterthought.
A great big box stuck on the back of the saloon counterpart. Not so the new Vectra Estate.

Our designers, perfectionists that they are, set about creating a car with all the practicalities of an estate with none of the 'ugliness.' Or as they put it 'a beautiful continuous flow from the bonnet through to the rounded rear.' And a design that 'embodied all the elements of the Vectra saloon but added an element of functionality and flair that is uniquely its own.' (They do tend to go on a bit these designers.)

But in this case we'll forgive them. After all, they have produced an exceptional car that combines genuine driving pleasure with an appeal that goes far beyond the versatility of load area. Oh dear, they've got us at it now.

If you'd like to take the new Vectra Estate for a test drive, and we rather suspect you would, call 0800 455 466 for details of your nearest Vauxhall Dealer.

THE NEW VECTRA ESTATE FROM VAUXHALL 

5 7
3 3
1 1
ad
ing
c. in
ar
re
at
ad
re
ad
of
in
re
at
re
to
re
in
to
al
A
at
is
n
e
tr
t
ave
n
of
p
u
at
up
ce
of
ist
le
d
st
rd
nd
m
ed
s
d.
nat
n
ed
m
to
on
er
sur
m
se
ut
he
Vir
in
be
on
lit
ek
ad
of
ich
nd
1".
s.
ed
Ne
at
lor
s.
on
try
de
Vir
ng
on

the saturday story

On the fiddle in Rome

Delegates to the World Food Summit wine and dine, and neglect the topic of hunger, says Anne Hanley

Eight hundred million people around the globe may be undernourished, but there's been little sign of deprivation at the World Food Summit, which winds up in Rome tomorrow.

Not, naturally, that you would have expected the delegations from 196 nations to include even a small sample of their countries' starving masses. No, the delegates here have a comfortable, well-fed look. And the tailored suits and flowing robes which have succeeded each other on the speaker's stand at regular seven-minute intervals over the past four days have placed worldly concepts such as having nothing with which to fill stomachs on a decidedly abstract plain. People are starving, so let's talk politics, diplomacy, big business... Anything but concrete ways of helping the world's undernourished.

Setting the somewhat unreal tone for the gathering when it opened last Wednesday was Pope John Paul II. Curved over in his chair, mumbling his speech in halting French, the Pontiff gave every appearance of having mixed up his summits. "It would be an illusion to believe that an arbitrary stabilisation of the world's population, or even its reduction, could directly solve the problem of hunger," he warned, picking up where the Vatican delegation left off in the Cairo parley on population last year.

"A large population can prove to be a source of development because it involves

exchanges and demand for goods."

Coming from a celibate man sufficiently removed from worldly reality to be able to equate (as he has on numerous occasions) his own well-monitored health problems with the suffering of the poor and needy, the invitation to go forth, multiply and thereby boost domestic markets had a hollow ring to it.

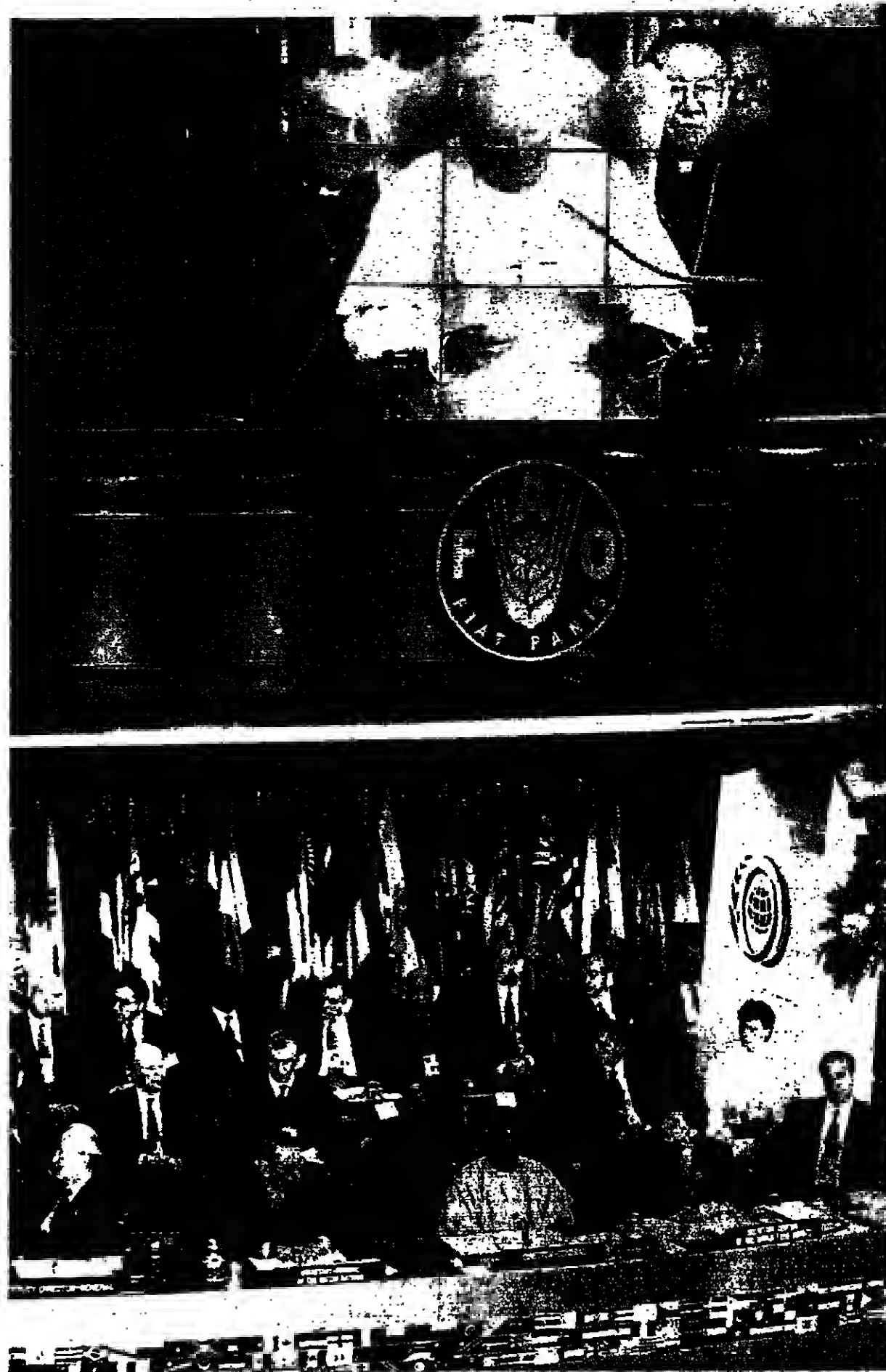
The Pope's words clearly brought much pleasure to many mainly female, middle-aged journalists from obscure - generally Catholic - magazines, who felt vindicated in leaping up in ensuing press conferences to harangue delegates from most Western nations over their governments' birth control policies.

But they certainly failed to impress the US Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, who made no bones about underscoring his country's rift with the Vatican over the urgent need for family planning. While denying strongly that the US ever made food aid dependent on population control measures, Glickman did resort to demographic scare tactics. There will be 2.5 billion more people on the earth by the year 2010, he insisted in his address to the plenary session, and again in his ensuing press conference. And with this demographic time bomb ticking away, he went on, a healthy - or unhealthy, depending on your point of view - dose of bio-engineering to increase crop yields and "improve" crop qual-

ity will be needed to defuse it. (The cynical might observe that this could also be good news for America's agribusiness.)

"We need to use science as a friend," he told a press conference. "Naturally, I'm talking about sound, responsible science. If we don't look upon science as a friend we'll face food shortages 25 years from now much worse than those of today."

In a not very convincing attempt to show that he was prepared to admit America has some faults, Glickman talked of curbing food waste in the US ("15 million meals a day are thrown into garbage bins in my country alone") but obviously, he continued, this is a job for the market; a free market, untrammelled by protectionist policies and allowing free rein to big business. Bring on, therefore, the multinationals ("governments are under too much fiscal pressure: large industry has the cash flow and the moral responsibility"), and their bio-engineers. And cue protests: in one of the more memorable events of a generally dull summit, Glickman's press conference was held up by a trio of women who ripped their clothes off to reveal anti-American slogans painted across their torsos, while a male colleague - fully dressed, of course - scattered organically grown grain over the assembled press corps. Embarrassed carabinieri hustled them out of the room as Glickman leered: "Aren't we all glad we're in a country where we're free to express



ourselves." Even something as tedious as a World Food Summit has some perks for the Agriculture Secretary.

Just down the road from the main atrium, at the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Forum, Greenpeace called a press conference to protest against the US stance. One billion more hungry people in five years' time was the environmental watchdog's prediction for the world. And Greenpeace thundered, if genetic manipulation of crops becomes the norm, health will suffer, the environment will suffer, control of food supplies will be concentrated in the hands of some 10 companies in developed countries which hold the patents for bioengineered seeds, and rural unemployment in the Third World will shoot up as large-scale farm-

ing methods are introduced.

If this was all coming too close for comfort to the topic that was meant to be under discussion, there were other, more exciting diversions to take delegates' minds off starvation itself.

There was, for example, the mini-rerun of the Beijing summit on women: women's place in agricultural production, women's rights to education, rural women's access to finance. "To ensure food security, protecting women's rights and improving their health and nutrition is just as important as improved agricultural technology and trade," said Unicef's executive director, Carol Bellamy.

(It was difficult not to wonder what kind of beneficial effect was to be derived from first ladies' rights to spend five

days shopping, and being ushered around the beauty spots of Rome, Florence and Venice while their husbands saw to the important business at the summit.)

The situation around the Great Lakes also provided a good alternative: Zaire's speaker caught the plenary session wrong-footed when he demanded that food aid be sent elsewhere, along with the refugees who have done nothing but wreak economic and environmental havoc on his comparatively wealthy and resource-rich nation.

After a moment's embarrassment, it was as if he had never opened his mouth, however: as if Zaire had no say in the matter, ministers from developed nations continued to pledge their support for the multilateral force which will

be sent to the region, and circumspectly pecked at the press after his speech to the plenary session. "There are delegations of 100 people accredited here... though where they are, I don't know, they're certainly not here in this building. That seems to negate the purpose of the summit."

Chalker also made a dig at international aid organisations, particularly the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) which has hosted this week's summit. Asked whether she approved of the work of UN agencies, she said pointedly: "The World Food Programme is doing admirable things. We are trying to get others to change their methods."

And, eliminating summits would be a good first step, she said. Few of the listening journalists disagreed.

it ensured that the world was watching its every movement, by a crescendo of suspense worthy of Alfred Hitchcock. For the 2,000-plus journalists in Rome for the summit, the Castro saga made running the gauntlet of an immense and not always swift-moving security operation - not to mention immense boredom - worthwhile.

"Is he here?" "He's getting here tonight." "No, tomorrow morning." "I know someone who's seen him here already." No, impossible, there's a storm in the Caribbean, I bet he won't come at all."

For the hawks, hungry for a story more gripping than mild condemnations of food unfairness, this has not been so much the World Food Summit as the Castro Watch.

Fidel (and we all feel as if we're on first name terms with him by now) was expected to fly in - on Wednesday evening, and Thursday night, then Friday morning and now this morning - to give the world's leaders hell over Cuban sanctions; but, if truth be told, it's not his nation's plight which is most compelling: of much greater importance, to the press at least, is whether he'll take up the magnanimous invitation from the Franciscans - much persecuted by the Havana regime - to visit them at their headquarters in Assisi. After all, how can a mere 30 per cent drop in living standards as a result of the US embargo compare to Fidel's kissing the Pope's ring? And what possible interest could the Helms-Burton Act hold, when there is the possibility that Fidel might spend some time admiring a Giotto fresco cycle in an Umbrian basilica?

With so much attention focused on the Castro show, it is little wonder that much of the world's press preferred to overlook one of the biggest provocations launched during the summit, by Britain's Overseas Development Secretary, Ruth

Chalker. "We've done the talking, now it's time to do the walking," she told the press after his speech to the plenary session. "There are delegations of 100 people accredited here... though where they are, I don't know, they're certainly not here in this building. That seems to negate the purpose of the summit."

Chalker also made a dig at international aid organisations, particularly the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) which has hosted this week's summit. Asked whether she approved of the work of UN agencies, she said pointedly: "The World Food Programme is doing admirable things. We are trying to get others to change their methods."

And, eliminating summits would be a good first step, she said. Few of the listening journalists disagreed.

ONLY FOOLS MORTALS

Luvvy jubbly!

Don't be a plonker, save yourself some dosh!

only £7.99

BBC

jo brand's week

Let me just add a few more column inches to the many that already abound concerning the increasing violence of women. I have to confess I did not watch the *Panorama* programme about it, but I could piece together more than the gist of it from previews and reviews. It seems women are lashing out all over the place, and score-mongering about the percentage increase in acts of young female violence has started a fierce debate about the subject.

Female violence will never be sanctioned in the way that "boys will be boys" male violence is. I think this is because anything which demonstrates women are painfully establishing a real kind of equality will always be threatening to a certain proportion of men. Even Miss Canada International was said to have chimed a love rival this week and if women who are supposed to be the epitome of demure and chastity, "Oh I really want world peace, Jerry," femalehood, are turning to fistfights to sort out problems, normally tackled with a good cry in the toilets and a helpless flutter of tear-stained eyelashes, then things must be getting bad. All we need to know is what proportion of women are forced to stay in

at night, because they are too scared to go out and perhaps we can understand why some girls are becoming tough.

Even poor old John, the tour manager on the current tour I'm doing, came up against it in Warrington the other night. Six Amazons grabbed him around his stopwatch, demanding to see me and half scaring him to death. He flew into the backstage area like a bat out of hell and got me into the car, as if a cohort of Attila the Hun's bravest and best was on our tails, in case they spotted us and went for a more sensitive area of his anatomy.

I suppose the problem is that lots of blokes just don't know how to respond to this sort of behaviour by women, because somewhere in their minds women are fluffy bunnies who don't do this. Lots of women seem to be joining the boys because they can't beat them. Or, it appears, perhaps they can.

Who has ever slowed down on the motorway to get a good butchers at a spectacular car crash then? Most of us, I think. We are fascinated by what's inside, although how many of us pull over to the side of the road for a quick session of how-your-

father on the strength of it is perhaps a more difficult question to answer. It seems that we can all secretly cope with the unsavoury aspect of our personalities which gets something out of road accidents, but take it a bit further to overt sexual kicks and it becomes uncomfortable. This is why the new film *Crash* is having a moment swerving past the censor who has been greatly disturbed by it. One newspaper went as far as publishing several pages of the script.

From what I could make out, the producers are just looking for alternative venues for a bit more romping. Everyone did back-of-the-car stuff in the 50s and 60s, so to spice it up the sex scenes have to have an interesting catalyst. I expect they threw out lollipop ladies or squashed badgers as possible erotic stimuli. I'd

ban it on the basis that it's probably crap.

How absolutely horrible to have one's relationship dissected and chewed over in the public eye. Catchphrases and references to previous work you have done come endlessly back to haunt you.

Poor old Caroline Abernethy (aka Mrs Merton) is the latest victim as newspapers struggle to crowbar the "heated debate" line into their headlines. Perhaps the safest thing one can do is conduct one's affairs out of the public eye, where one knows a horde of slavering photographers will not be waiting to record every move and hoping for a slip-up that they can sell to be shown in those horrendous "showbiz stars...warts and all" pages at the beginning of Sunday tabloid magazines.

I did a photo-call type

thing yesterday for the Terence Higgins Trust as I am involved in setting up a show on World Aids Day, which involves comics being transported around various venues by gay bikers. So there we were in North London with two bikers and a horde of photographers shouting instructions, not to mention passers-by joining in with the odd bit of abuse. I was asked to get on and off a bike so often my thighs were firm up by the time I had finished and it was obvious that the snappers were praying for a fall. I survived, I think, but if you see a picture of me with my foot over a bike wheeling a pair of holy leggings, you'll know they got me.

The very delicate situation in Bosnia was not helped this week by an Austrian army officer who allowed his peace-keeping troops to wear T-shirts emblazoned with "Wogs go quiet when our strong arm dictates. Heavy platoon". The officer has been sent home and relieved of his duties for tolerating the shirts. What a marvellous example to set a country riven by the sort of intractable racism that has created mass slaughter. Three cheers for the civilising influence of Western Europe.

Tall stories

From Sulawesi come the sounds of sanity at 60 feet

David Aaronovitch



This week the man on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, who has been living up a cashew-nut tree for seven years, yet again refused to come down. Ever since an argument with his wife over the gado-gado provoked him to climb to the top of the tree, he has lived 60 feet above the ground, and (in an interesting piece of role reversal) has resisted the entreaties of his son to return to earth.

His story has become famous throughout the islands and archipelagos of the region, baffling the Javanese, confounding the Kalimantanese and dazzling the Jakartans.

Once such extreme behaviour would have seemed highly virtuous to those of us of the Judeo-Christian tradition. In the early years of the Church - revolted by the venality of a much-expanded priesthood and congregation - herds of ascetics made off for desert places, where - amongst the scorching boulders - they punished themselves with bodily austerities. Some wore heavy iron chain belts (which must have burned their middle parts), others ate what the animals ate - like grass and lizards. The shortest-lived did both.

Then, in 423, a chap called Simeon "despairing of escaping the world horizontally, tried to escape it vertically". He took over a disused pillar at Telanissus in northern Syria and sat on top of it. The pillar (a stunted thing to begin with) started low, but over the years, as Simeon's fame and desire for solitude increased together, the height was increased incrementally to some 60 feet; which, coincidentally, is exactly the same height as the tree-dweller of Sulawesi's best branches. On a platform, surrounded by a balustrade about 12 feet square, St Simeon Stylites spent the next 36 years.

It didn't work, of course. Though he had wished to avoid the press of people who flocked for advice and prayers even when he was a mere boulder-dwelling grass-eater, he now became the focus for emperors, other saints, pilgrims, sightseers and - worst of all - Roman tourists. Councils could not be held in

Ephesus, disputes in Antioch or hermits in Byzantium without Simeon being consulted.

All over Syria other stylites, taking note of his extraordinary social success, erected pillars of their own.

I mention this because it strikes me that - instead of trying to persuade this poor man to leave his arboreal refuge - many of us could do worse than to follow his example. If you really crave attention, climbing a tree in the local park, and deciding to live in it is a pretty sure-fire way of attracting it. And even if renouncing things is what you're into, once the local news cameras have gone, and you're left alone with a dinner of bark and bird's nests, there's plenty of scope for discomfort.

But I also think that living up trees probably satisfies some more basic urge in human beings. I remember the sensation of sitting in the high, swaying branches of a silver birch or cherry as being a distinctly pleasurable one.

When Hayley Mills and the Swiss Family Robinson made their Swiss Family Home in a giant baobab, and festooned it with walkways and swings, I thought that this was a great way of living.

I was sure that Franz and Fritz (or whatever the boys' names were) would agree with me that urinating from the top of a tall tree - a golden arc caught in the afternoon light - was magic.

And, of course, lodged deep somewhere in our genetic memory is a recollection of happy hours spent, swinging by our tails through the forests of pre-history. Odd corners of our instincts still bear traces of those thousands of years, confronted by a ravening lion or a crocodile, most of us will look around for a tree in which to seek refuge. It's only natural.

The man from Sulawesi may not have been in such immediate physical danger, but his need was obviously great and thus his decision to escape by shinning up the cashew-nut tree was entirely rational.

Now that he's up, he's discovered what fun it is urinating from 60 feet, and doesn't want to come down. The guy is certainly not mad.

The pointless destiny of the Antarctic walker

Sir Ranulph Fiennes set out on a walk yesterday which is certain to be "unpleasant" - the word British adventurers always use for sheer hell.

Sir Ranulph aims to march 1,800 miles across Antarctica, taking in the South Pole as he goes. He will be lugging a 500lb sledge, everything he needs for 110 consecutive daily 18-mile walks. There is a good chance he will fall down a 60-foot crevasse and, without a companion, be finished. There is a fair chance that he will starve or freeze to death. Only if things go hideously wrong is there likely to be much fuss. The fact is, Antarctic adventures aren't what they were.

Sir Ranulph does not balk at the suggestion that the glory days are over.



Polar 'explorers' are brave people who endure terrible hardships. But do their journeys serve any purpose? Richard North spoke to Sir Ranulph Fiennes

I have a profession in order to make an income", he says, when asked what's the draw of adventures in the wilderness. It's possible to see him in terms both less and more flattering: Nelson (who knew Arctic adventures as a young man) and Robert Falcon Scott (who died in Antarctica in 1912, having been beaten to the Pole) were both fiercely - and differently - driven by the need to make a mark. Surely Sir Ranulph has the same drive.

This time, he is involved in a sponsored circus turn, in which he more resembles Evel Knievel than Christopher Columbus. This is not his fault. The fact is, real exploration is now dead. In 1959, Wilfred Thesiger described his desert travels in the Empty Quarter a decade earlier: "To have done the journey on a camel when I could have done it in a car would have turned the venture into a stunt."

Exploration, in other words, must have real and not contrived exigencies.

In the mid-Fifties, Fuchs and Hillary crossed Antarctica with the help of the little grey Ferguson tractor - now a byword of quaintness. Once the motorised crossing had been accomplished, on the Thesiger argument, there was no need - no room - for further daring-do in Antarctica. Sir Ranulph might as well drive or fly across it.

Win or lose, his trip will - as have many of his others - raise a lot of money for charity (breast cancer research, this time). To that extent, it is worthy. But the thousands of sponsors might just as well have agreed to pay a certain sum per hour spent by Sir Ranulph on a treadmill in an abattoir's deep-freeze. His endurance and courage - never doubted - would have been as certainly tested.

The problem is not that Sir Ranulph can be plucked off the continent at the first real danger: he probably wouldn't let himself be, even if the fates

out with some marvellous things" - few have had much to say about Antarctica. He added: "A recent novelist [I think he was quoting from one of his own adventure novels] said, 'It is a place for great thoughts and ideas but hardly anyone who goes there has them any more.'"

So it is a relief to come across the writing of Apsley Cherry-Garrard, one of Scott's expeditioners for the fatal 1910-1913 journey and widely regarded as one of the continent's few readable chroniclers. "Polar exploration", he wrote, "is at once the cleanest and most isolated way of having a bad time which has been devised". He went on to say that Antarctica is "more lonely than London, more secluded than any monastery".

We outsiders suspect or believe that there is a spiritual

dimension to wilderness, and perhaps especially to Antarctica. Antarctica is the Great Other, the uncorrupted and perhaps incorruptible last outpost of innocence. It is a sanctuary. Its very cold is purifying.

It is not surprising that explorers - the people who have actually opened up wilderness in fact and imagination - tend to be muscular and matter-of-factish men rather than poets or gurus, or that when they are these last, they tend to be misanthropes. Liking solitude on an Antarctic scale would hardly come easily to the ordinarily gregarious.

Scott's own writing makes several of the principal points. "Great God! This is an awful place," he wrote in the last days, and the remark sticks because it is profane, religious, frightened, condemnatory and celebratory all at once. For

both poles, indeed, gave rise to such fierce competitiveness between individuals and nations that it is surprising that any dignity remains to the business at all. So much for the kindlier virtues that the contemplation of Mother Earth is supposed to induce.

Scott, one feels, strained to avoid feeling competitive when constantly taunted by the knowledge that Amundsen was engaged in the race in a rather less gentlemanly way (at any rate, a less British way). Scott didn't want the enterprise reduced to a sporting wager, while for Ranulph Fiennes, as competitive as any who has ever gone South, it can't be much else. Indeed, the pursuit of science was important because it spared the early expeditions the charge of mere adventurism, mere jingoism, mere competition. Sponsorship was necessary from the start; commercialism and vulgarity were never far away. Now, raising money for charity alone raises Fiennes' work above being *Gladiators-in-an-Icebox*.

Much of Antarctica's short human history makes one feel that the right thing would be to leave it alone, so that it can regain its value as solitude. I don't mean that Fiennes is at serious risk of damaging the place. As he says: "Amundsen, Scott and Shackleton were the equivalent of Thesiger." To them go the blame and the fame of the first defilement. "I sort of pass the buck backwards to them," says Fiennes.

Still, Thesiger may be right in his belief that even writing about trips within wilderness defiles it: one should ideally be content merely just to be there. Wilderness, after all, can not only lose its virginity but once - it can lose it at a touch, at a glance, even.

There is however a view of Antarctica's usefulness to people that might allow and explain the Fiennes enterprise. In his 1986 book *A Journey to Antarctica*, Stephen J Pyne noted: "Its greatest asset is not any resource it possesses but the stripped and reradiated revelations it makes about those who stare into it." It is a mirror. It can be my sanctuary and your assault course.

Sir Ranulph is unlikely to discover, or say, anything new about Antarctica. But we will read his account of his journey because we are interested in him, not in the place where he tested himself.

Antarctica will keep its secrets, and reveal things about us instead.

Artist vs critic: a play without direction

It was one of the saddest, most inept exhibitions of rage that it has been this critic's misfortune to witness.

When Michael Bogdanov persuaded the *New Statesman* to lend him two pages of the current issue in which to vent his spleen against the critics who mauled his production of *Faust*, hopes were high. Bogdanov, director of such great movies as *The Last Picture Show* but popularly known among London critics as "the Bogder" for the uneven quality of his theatrical work, had every advantage - no terrifyingly tight deadline, plenty of space, and above all, the priceless asset of genuine rage. But he went and blew it.

First gaffe - an opening paragraph dripping with self-pity. "Directing is a lousy affair," he sniffles. "Six months of tortuous preparation can go up in smoke in a couple of hours." Boo hoo. But this was meant to be a bawling match, not a weepie.

Second howler - having been well trailed on the cover ("Michael Bogdanov beats up the theatre critics"), Bogdanov bizarrely confounds expectations by turning critic himself, bemoaning "the anal, pedantic obsession of... Peter Scin... the embarrassing naivete of Peter Brook's *Hamlet*..." If he's so happy dishing it out, one is obliged to ask what problem does he have with taking it?

Bogdanov's final self-inflicted upper cut consists in tossing out a random string of



Peter Popham is far from entertained by the latest episode in the longest-running story in showbusiness

disagreeable adjectives to describe the critic he hates most - "vicious, vituperative, vitriolic, objectionable, abusive, arrogant", etc etc - but declining to name him. He thereby allows his presumed target, Charles Spencer, theatre critic of the *Daily Telegraph*, to deliver a single knockout punch - the word "cowardly" - and raise his arms in victory.

This is the usual outcome of such encounters. The war of the artist and the critic is as old as self-expression itself, but it has always been an unfair fight.

The writer and his actors may command the action on stage, but as soon as the house lights go up, the critic, "a bunch of biases held loosely together by a sense of taste", as someone put it, takes the floor and holds it for as long as he likes. "His style is chaos, illuminated by flashes of lightning. As a writer, he has mastered everything except language; as a novelist he can do everything except tell a story; as an artist, he is everything except articulate." (Oscar Wilde on George Meredith). "I didn't like the play, but then I saw it under adverse conditions - the curtain was up," said Groucho Marx. Dorothy Parker on Tilly's *Redemption*: "I went into the theatre a comparatively young woman, and I staggered out of it three hours later, 20 years older, haggard and broken with suffering."

Oh, very good, very droll - unless you happen to be on the wrong end of it. If you are Stephen Fry and Nicholas de Jongh has described your performance as "Stephen Fry does his usual Stephen Fry impersonation of a superior man-servant" - pretty mild stuff - you will flee the country for six months as the only alternative to suicide. But the more robust reaction is to seek revenge.

The way you get it depends very much on the sort of person you are. Bogdanov's response clearly shows he is a closet man of letters, though the *New Statesman* piece will not have advanced his literary reputation much. Steven Berkoff, on the other hand, takes a different approach, as

someone he dismissed as a "lorry-driving lesbian."

It is tempting to wring hands and conclude that the triviality of the age has reduced both critics and the artists they lambast to thugs - tempting, but wildly wrong. Back in the 1950s, Kenneth Tynan's elegant put-down of the absurdist playwright Eugene Ionesco may have stimulated a wonderfully unEnglish debate involving some of the most superb intellects in the land and going on for weeks. But it was in the same decade that John Osborne formed what he called the British Playwrights' Mafia, whose object was beating up critics (though they never did more than fire off rude postcards).

So what can the luckless artist do? Perhaps the only satisfactory response is to drag the offending individual out of the auditorium and stick him on the stage. It's an old trick - Aristophanes did it to both Euripides and Aeschylus, and Plato went and did it to Aristophanes. Some years later, George Lucas did it to the terrifying New York film critic Pauline Kael, naming the villain in *Star Wars* General Kael. Over here, Simon Gray named the murder victims in his TV play *Old Flames* Wardle, Shulman, Nightingale and Coveney, after the theatre critics. It doesn't stop the bastards having the last word. But it's the closest the playwright's going to get to sticking pins in a voodoo doll.

Oxfam

Save lives in Central Africa

Up to one million people in Eastern Zaire are dying from starvation and disease. Some refugees have been able to flee into Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and Tanzania. Oxfam can help them.

We are providing clean water for thousands of those who have escaped the turmoil. You can help us to save more lives.

We are doing everything possible, but we need extra funds now to respond as this crisis unfolds.

Please, give a donation today.

credit card donations ☎ 01865 312231

Yes, I want to help Oxfam's work in Central Africa. Here is my donation of:

£25 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ £250 ☐ £

Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms

Address

Postcode

Please send to: Oxfam, Room 8808, FREEPOST, Oxford OX2 7BR.

Oxfam United Kingdom and Ireland is a member of Oxfam International.

Registered Charity No. 202958

OXFAM
UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

صلى الله عليه وسلم

market report / shares

Investors put cares behind them and follow Wall St

Taking Stock

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year



The others, London Electricity, and Yorkshire Electricity, progressed with London up 20.5p to 626p and Yorkshire 7p to 735.5p. The generators were active with PowerGen, on Goldman Sachs support, up 11p to 565p and National Power, figures out a week, 10p at 445p.

Waters, where bid action has been much more muted, made headway with Thames gaining 7.5p to 568.5p. Bedford International, the Magnet kitchens group, added 12p to 118.5p after disclosing plans to buy in part of its 5 per cent convertible loan stock. It repeated that profits, to be announced on Friday, would be

£25m before exceptional costs. Linelight, a kitchens and bathrooms group, recovered from early uncertainty to close at 182.5p against a 175p placing.

Win Cook, the engineer, surged 84.5p to 325p as Triplex Lloyd mounted a cash and shares bid which achieved a quick rejection. Triplex edged ahead 1.5p to 208.5p. Cobham, the aerospace group, continued to prosper from the Henderson Crosswhite investment, rising a further 11.5p to 605.5p.

P&O steamed ahead 2.5p to 593p; stockbroker John Siddall is positive. It sees little changed profits of £320m this year but £370m next. After five

stagnant years it is hoped that a more dynamic management style will refocus group activities, cut borrowings and introduce a growth strategy", it says.

Allied Domecq was little changed at 454.5p as Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull cut its forecast by £20m to £610m. Hambros lost 8.5p to 235.5p. Vulture fund Regent Pacific has abandoned its attempt to shake up the bank. It failed to win enough support from other shareholders and will, it is feared, eventually dump its 3 per cent shareholding.

Manchester United rose 8p to 538p, still reflecting the possible pay-as-you-view bonanza. There was also, once again, suggestions that takeover action could be on. Tottenham Hotspur scored a 27.5p gain to 572.5p.

Inspirations, the holidays group, fell a further 6p to 73.5p after a profits warning.

But Dawson, the newspaper distributor, produced a profit upgrade. It said results due next month will "be well ahead" of market estimates. It had been expected to produce £7.5m; around £9m is now the target. The shares, a founder member of AIM at 475p, jumped 237.5p to 1,912.5p.

Eidos, the computer group, rose 40p to 745p as shareholders approved its ADR listing. Last month ABR Amro Hoare Govett said the company had built a computer games business worth 1,200p a share, suggesting profits of £9m this year and £14.5m next.

CRT, a recruitment and training company, edged ahead 5p to 275.5p. It has acquired Link-Up Services, a recruitment business, for £5m. More takeovers are signalled. In August Larry Ellison, chief executive of Oracle, and former junk bond king Michael Milken acquired control.

□ Lazard Smaller Equities, an investment trust, firmed to 130p, reflecting Invesco's arrival. The trust, which has climbed from 106p since the spring, will change its name to Invesco Enterprise and adopt a new investment policy. The change, in the normally staid world of investment trusts, is an embarrassment for the Lazard investment operation. In what amounted to a shareholder revolt the trust's directors were forced to change managers.

□ Barasford arrived on AIM at 7p. It is a similar operation to Gander, another AIM company which specialises in on-market residential properties. Barasford's flotation raised £4m at 6p a share. It intends to adopt an aggressive acquisition policy. Gander is 12.5p against an 8p launch last year.

Data Bank

FTSE 100
3958.2 + 32.1

FTSE 250
4409.9 + 11.0

FTSE 350
1973.3 + 13.6

SEAQ VOLUME
840m shares,
38,875 bargains

Gits Index
N/A

Share spotlight

Share price, pence

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

160
140
120
100
80
60
DJFMAMJJASON

Inspirations

Whatever the deal,
I only pay **£16.50**
boasts investor.

Frequent Traders Club from ShareLink.
£16.50 a trade. It costs only £60 pa to join.
Service and rewards for the active investor.

Call 0121 236 2444

FREQUENT TRADERS Club **FTC**

Based on ShareLink, which is a member firm of the London Stock Exchange and LIFPE, an Island Revenue approved Plan Manager and is regulated by The Securities and Futures Authority.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: Ex rights & ex-dividend in £; all other details in £/100. Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from ShareLink. Simply dial 091 123 333, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 091 123 333 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FTSE 100 - Real-time	00	Share Prices	04	Privatisation Issues	36
UK Stock Market Report	01	Bullion Report	05	Water Shares	39
UK Company News	02	Wall St Report	20	Electricity Shares	40
Foreign Exchange	03	Tokyo Market	21	High Street Banks	41

Anyone with a land-line telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 091 123 333. For assistance, call our helpline 0171 4375 6300 (9.00am - 5.30pm).

Calls cost 30p per minute (cheap rate), and 40p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Div
400	395	FTSE 100	3958.2	+32.1			
4400	4400	FTSE 250	4409.9	+11.0			
1970	1970	FTSE 350	1973.3	+13.6			

High	Low
------	-----

business & city

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2686 fax 0171-293 2098
BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Railtrack shares soar on huge profits leap

Michael Harrison

Shares in Railtrack soared more than 10 per cent yesterday as the newly privatised company reported a huge leap in profits helped by windfall property gains and unveiled new plans to tackle the problem of leaves on the line.

In its first set of results since the company was floated in May, Railtrack, the owner of the country's railway track, sig-

nalling and stations announced a 75 per cent rise in profits to £173m in the half year to the end of September. A £23m profit from the disposal of properties in Shepherd's Bush, west London, Oxford and Bradford, contributed to the increase.

Railtrack shares soared ahead on the announcement, closing 38p higher at 323p - a gain of 13 per cent. They were sold by the Government at 300p six months ago.

The increase in pre-tax profits was flattened by a sharp drop in interest charges following the Government's agreement to write off more than half Railtrack's £1.7bn debt. Operating profits rose by a more modest 12 per cent to £169m.

The improvement came despite an increase in operating costs from £988m to £1.03bn and a marked deterioration in the performance of its freight service customers. Figures re-

leased by Railtrack show that delays caused by freight train operators were 75 per cent higher in September this year compared with the same month last year.

"Our freight customers have to do rather better, to put it frankly," said John Edmonds, Railtrack's chief executive.

However, he said that passenger train delays were down by 17 per cent while delays attributable directly to Railtrack

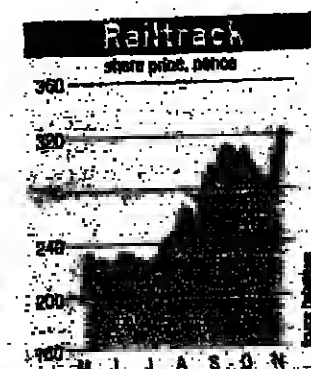
were down by 30 per cent. The improvement in performance enabled Railtrack to net profit of £4m in the half year from access charge supplements to train operating companies. It expects the figure for the year to be £9m.

Railtrack is in negotiations with the infrastructure maintenance companies that repair and service the rail network to agree new cost saving targets for next financial year. Railtrack has been told to achieve efficiency

improvements of 3 per cent a year by the Rail Regulator John Swift.

Meanwhile the company said that it was testing out a new German-designed system for eradicating the problem of leaves on the line. The Geismar system involves removing the leaf mulch from rail lines using a high pressure water cannon.

At present, Railtrack tackles the problem by applying a gravel-like paste to the tracks to im-



prove traction. The system has been used successfully in France and Sweden. The trials, costing £250,000, are taking place in the South-west and East Anglia.

KKR takes on LVMH in battle for DFS

Nigel Cope

Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy, the luxury goods retailer, was facing a bid battle for duty-free group DFS yesterday when it emerged that US buyout specialist Kohlberg Kravis Roberts is also interested in making an offer.

However, LVMH said KKR's bid was conditional on LVMH dropping its deal which was announced last month. A spokesman in France said that the company was confident the deal would go through. KKR in the UK declined to comment.

A source close to LVMH who had seen KKR's offer said: "The KKR initiative is conditional on LVMH and the vendors renouncing their contract of the first of October. But both parties have let it be known that they have no intention of doing so." No price has yet been attached to the KKR offer.

LVMH last month agreed to pay \$2.47bn (£1.48bn) for a 58 per cent stake in San Francisco-based DFS, one of the world's largest operators of duty-free outlets.

The possibility of a bid battle caused a sharp drop in LVMH shares in early trading yesterday though they steadied later. "If it's going to be a war it could cost a lot of money," one dealer said.

The battle for DFS has already been fraught with controversy. LVMH acquired its stake from two of the group's four controlling shareholders, Charles Feeney and Alan M. Parker. But the transaction angered Robert Miller, the largest shareholder with a 38.75 per cent stake and the fourth shareholder, Anthony Pillar. They contend that in agreeing to sell their stakes to LVMH, the other two shareholders acted contrary to a 1991 pact.

The Miller camp has asked a New York court to suspend the LVMH deal until a solution can be found.

DFS has more than 180 stores and sales of \$3bn. LVMH said the deal would expand its presence in the Asia Pacific region and emerging markets which it saw as key areas for growth. The deal would help the group secure distribution for its branded luggage and champagne in these increasingly affluent economies.

LVMH has said it would retain DFS's existing management and that the chain would be managed independently of its other businesses which include Moët & Chandon champagnes, Hennessy cognacs, Christian Dior perfumes and Louis Vuitton designer luggage.

Sweetener wins £400m BMW plant for UK

Michael Harrison

The German car maker BMW is to build a £400m engine plant in the West Midlands after the Government offered a fast-track sweetener in the form of increased grant aid for the project.

The plant, at Hams Hill in north Warwickshire, will receive £40m-£45m in government support and will safeguard 1,500 jobs at BMW's Rover subsidiary and 5,000 more in the component supply industry.

Output from the plant, which is being built on the site of an old power station, will be 500,000 engines a year split evenly between BMW and Rover cars.

The breakthrough in the aid negotiations came on Thursday night after the BMW chairman, Bernd Pischetsrieder, flew into London for a final round of talks with Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade.

Mr Lang agreed to increase the amount of regional selective assistance on offer to £22.5m. A similar amount is being provided in the form of training grants and infrastructure funding from English Partnerships.

The level of support compares with the £61m in grants that Ford received to build a new Jaguar car plant in Coventry. The Department of Trade and Industry initially agreed to provide £48m in regional selective assistance, subsequently cut to £22.5m.

Car makers will increasingly have to shift their sights towards Eastern Europe as growth in the traditionally lucrative Western markets heads towards saturation point, a survey said yesterday. The research, from the IFO economic institute, predicts that European car ownership will grow by an average of 1.8 per cent a year until 2005, increasing the number of cars on the roads from 168.5 million to 205 million. The growth rate in East Europe will average 4.3 per cent, West Europe by just 1.6 per cent.

£40m by the European Commission. Mr Lang said, however, that he did not anticipate any objections from Brussels to this latest aid package.

Austria, where BMW already has a number of engine plants, had indicated that it would provide up to £80m in aid but Dr

Walter Hasselkus, Rover's chief executive, said Britain had won BMW's vote on technical, commercial and cost grounds.

He denied that BMW had threatened to take the project elsewhere if the Government failed to provide a specific amount of support, but he said negotiations had been "hard-headed" throughout.

"We are not a charity organisation or a Sunday school. We had to get the best that could be granted. What we asked for, expected and got was a fair deal. It was not horse-trading."

The new engine plant forms part of BMW's plan to invest £3bn in Rover by the turn of the century and completely overhaul its model range. The German car maker has given the green light for Rover to develop a new Mini for the next century, which will be produced in volumes of up to 200,000 a year and a new small Land Rover will appear next year.

The plant will produce 1.6 to 2 litre petrol engines for the replacement models for the Rover 600 and 800 ranges and also for BMW models.

Rover's existing engine plant at Longbridge in Birmingham,



In the driving seat: Ian Lang and Dr Walter Hasselkus making the announcement yesterday Photograph: David Rose

which produces 340,000 A series and K series engines a year, will be scaled back as workers and production are shifted to the new plant. But Dr Hasselkus said Rover would continue to build engines at Longbridge in the longer term.

BMW's plan is to raise Rover's production from 500,000 cars and Land Rovers a year now to 750,000 by the turn of the century.

The engine for the new Mini will come from a plant that BMW is to build in partnership with Chrysler in South America, probably in Brazil.

The 85-acre site at Hams Hill was owned by the electricity generator PowerGen.

Design work on the buildings and site preparation will begin immediately.

BMW's investment in the West Midlands follows expan-

sion plans by Nissan at Sunderland and Vauxhall at Ellesmere Port in the last few months and is a further vote of confidence in the British car industry.

Mr Lang said: "It is a vitally important strategic investment and one which confirms the importance of the UK as the motor industry."

Unions and local councils also welcomed the investment.

William Cook spurns £58m bid

John Willcock

William Cook rejected a £58m takeover bid launched by rival UK engineering group Triplex Lloyd yesterday. It accused Triplex of trying to get Cook "on the cheap".

Cook's shares shot up 85p to 325p before closing at 325p, to stand 13p above the 312p value of the cash and share bid. Triplex's takeover terms imply a historic exit multiple of just over 10 times Cook's 1994-95 earnings.

The offer is seven new Triplex shares and £13.50 for every nine Cook shares. Shareholders will also be entitled to retain the interim dividend of 2.75p a share, announced recently by Cook. There is a 295p-per-share cash alternative.

Colin Cook, chairman of car parts maker Triplex and unrelated to the target's controlling family members, said he was prepared for a "long and acrimonious" battle for the Sheffield-based specialist castings business.

"We feel it's a very fair price given Cook's poor rating and recent track record," said Mr Cook. But Andrew Cook, chairman of William Cook, said: "Triplex Lloyd's offer is unsolicited and unwelcome. No attempt was made to obtain the support of the board."

He added: "Triplex Lloyd is seeking to gain control of William Cook on the cheap... They may need us: we do not need them. We have no intention of letting Triplex Lloyd get hold of William Cook in this opportunistic manner."

Analysts, however, admire the management trio that has revived Triplex's fortunes, consisting of Colin Cook, chairman, Graham Lockyer, chief executive, and Bob Mitchell, finance director. They are less impressed by Cook's management, which they think has lost its ambition to grow, particularly through overseas sales.

They point to Cook's two share buy-backs, 10 per cent in November 1995 and 5.5 per cent this October, as an admission that the company had ceased to grow.

John Dean, an analyst with Albert E Sharp, said: "On the face of it this offers William Cook shareholders a fairly nice premium, which could go a bit higher. If I was a shareholder I'd be delighted."

Mr Dean said he thought the only way Triplex would be able to get William Cook would be through a hostile bid. Triplex's Mr Cook said: "We would love to be able to agree a recommended deal, but I don't think that [Andrew Cook] will listen..."

Sir Desmond branded 'King of the Fat Cats'

Patrick Toohar

Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman of United Utilities, richly deserves his epithet as 'King of the Fat Cats', according to a report on bonus schemes published yesterday.

The controversial boss of Britain's first multi-utility is singled out in a survey of more than 80 new long-term incentive plans (LTIPs) carried out by Manifest, the proxy voting and

research agency. The survey found that the majority of LTIPs schemes limit the size of awards to between 50-100 per cent of basic salary. However, it notes that United Utilities' incentive plan potentially awards its highest paid director up to 137 per cent of his salary.

"When compared to the salary of the highest-paid director it can be seen why there was some press coverage of the United Utilities scheme

over the summer," the report said.

The scale of the awards at companies such as United Utilities has provoked heated political debate because the sums involved could match or even exceed amounts paid under share-option schemes discredited in the Greenbury report on excessive boardroom pay.

Under the United Utilities' scheme approved at a stormy meeting of investors this sum-

mer, Sir Desmond, who earned £346,000 this year, is entitled to a short-term bonus of up to 40 per cent of his pay and a long-term bonus of up to 87.5 per cent of salary.

Manifest also criticised the high level of apathy among institutional investors about the issue of excessive boardroom pay. It contacted 66 large UK companies which asked their shareholders to approve LTIP or similar incentive schemes at

annual general meetings held between March and August this year.

It found that just under 60 per cent of shareholders failed to register a vote on a key corporate governance issue. "This low level of voting shows that shareholders are failing to make their views known to company management about their LTIPs," said Adam Kay, who analysed the results of the survey for Manifest.

Second Inspirations warning

Tom Stevenson

Inspirations, Britain's fourth-largest tour operator, found itself at the centre of intense takeover speculation yesterday after issuing its second profits warning in only six weeks.

Hit by flight delays in the summer and adverse publicity after a critical television documentary, the company is expected to plunge to a £13m loss compared with expectations only two months ago of an £8m profit.

Shares in Inspirations fell 6p to 73.5p as disappointment at the profits warning was tempered by the growing expectation that another travel firm will step in to buy the business. Minneapolis-based Carlson Travel



Below expectations: Vic Farah, chief executive

research agency. The survey found that the majority of LTIPs schemes limit the size of awards to between 50-100 per cent of basic salary. However, it notes that United Utilities' incentive plan potentially awards its highest paid director up to 137 per cent of his salary.

"When compared to the salary of the highest-paid director it can be seen why there was some press coverage of the United Utilities scheme

over the summer," the report said.

The scale of the awards at companies such as United Utilities has provoked heated political debate because the sums involved could match or even exceed amounts paid under share-option schemes discredited in the Greenbury report on excessive boardroom pay.

Under the United Utilities' scheme approved at a stormy meeting of investors this sum-

French step up campaign over tsarist bonds

Peter Rodgers

Alexander Livshits, the Russian Deputy Prime Minister, was greeted yesterday in London by the latest stage of a campaign for compensation of French holders of defaulted tsarist bonds.

The warning from Inspirations that the company had been hit by flight delays following the failure of its engineering supplier, a subsidiary of British Airways, to meet agreed schedules.

Inspirations said the cost of the well-publicised delays was about £14m compared with its earlier estimate of about £8m. It added that it was negotiating a settlement with British Airways and had renegotiated its relationship with the engineering arm so that a new dedicated team would be set up at Gatwick to service Inspirations Caledonian Airways fleet.

That was expected to prevent a repeat of the long delays to holiday flights that had provoked fierce criticism of the company on a Watchdog programme in September. That adverse publicity led to a slump in demand for Inspirations holidays during the month which aggravated an existing oversupply problem following the takeover of capacity previously sold by collapsed seat-only operator The Flight Company.

The warning from Inspirations is the latest blow for an industry still reeling from the unexpected decision last week by the Office of Fair Trading to launch a Monopolies Commission investigation into the travel business.

But his aides rejected the request for payments on the tsarist bonds, saying it was between the French holders and their own government. The issue has become bogged down because Russia is making counterclaims against France. Britain settled for modest payments on defaulted tsarist bonds in the 1980s.

With tense negotiations under way for the release of the next stage of a \$10bn International Monetary Fund loan, which has been held up because of doubts about the Russian economy, Mr Livshits refused to be precise about the amount of the interest rate. But he did reject suggestions that it would be as high as 11 per cent, a posture in dollars.

To ease a serious concern among Western investors about Russia's potential for default, Mr Livshits announced that his government had agreed to honour the interest payments on the whole of a \$34bn domestic issue of Ministry of Finance bonds made in 1993 and held by Russians. It was frozen in June.

Large numbers of uninsured bonds disappeared from bank vaults in Chechnya during fighting, and the government froze the bond issue when it found it was having to pay interest on far more than should in theory have been in circulation.

STOCK MARKETS					
FISE 100	Dow Jones	Nikkei	FTSE 100	Dow Jones	Nikkei
3926.10	8920.00	22000.00	3926.10	8920.00	22000.00
3926.10	8920.00	22000.00	3926.10	8920.00	22000.00
3926.10	8920.00	22000.00	3926.10	8920.00	22000.00
3926.10	8920.00	22000.00	3926.10	8920.00	22000.00
3926.10	8920.00	22000.00	3926.10	8920.00	22000.00

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling	UK medium gilt	US long bond	Money Market Rates	Bond Yields	
5.50	7.50	6.50	5.50	7.50	6.50
5.50	7.50	6.50	5.50	7.50	6.50
5.50	7.50	6.50	5.50	7.50	6.50
5.50	7.50	6.50	5.50	7.50	6.50
5.50	7.50	6.50	5.50	7.50	6.50

CURRENCIES					
£/\$	£/DM	£/¥	Pound	Yen	DM
1.6624	0.8012	1.5510	1.6624	0.8012	1.5510
1.6624	0.8012	1.5510	1.6624	0.8012	1.5510
1.6624	0.8012	1.5510	1.6624	0.8012	1.5510
1.6624	0.8012	1.5510	1.6624	0.8012	1.5510
1.6624	0.8012	1.5510	1.6624	0.8012	1.5510

1500 11/16

KKR takes on LVMH in battle for DFS

Ugel Cope



JEREMY WARNER

'More than 10 years after privatisation and deregulation, it still has over 90 per cent of the domestic market. So its defence of monopoly has actually been a highly successful one'

BT points the way to the future with MCI deal

What will British Telecom look like 10 years from now? The question seems worth asking because of the welter of adverse press comment that has greeted BT's ambitious plans to merge with MCI of the United States. To many in the press, this looks like expensive empire building, an example of the folly of ambition on a grand scale. BT, its shareholders and customers will all live to regret this acquisition, is the general line. Oddly, however, this is not the general view of the City, which with its short-term horizons and concentration on immediate shareholder value, is generally at least as alive to anything that smacks of management aggrandisement as the press. So who has got it right - the press or the City? To see that it is the City and BT you have to look at what's going on in this industry and BT's plans to adapt to and benefit from these changes.

Sir Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, takes the view that 10 years from now the world of telecoms will be dominated by no more than a handful of international super carriers. That doesn't mean global hegemony for those that make the super league. Powerful national players will continue to co-exist alongside the super league, but they will be very much second division. Running in parallel with globalisation of the industry is its commoditisation. With the cost and price of all forms of telecommunications falling like

a stone, the main players are going to have to expand rapidly and effectively into all kinds of value-added services to keep their profits rising. That means moving into media, not necessarily as a content provider but certainly as a packager of product and a method of delivery. It also means moving into wider systems integration, contracting out and consultancy, the sort of territory occupied at present by EDS and IBM. To do this effectively, the aspiring super-carrier needs to establish a real presence in all three main trading blocks - the USA, Europe and Asia Pacific. Until comparatively recently this has not been possible. Domestic telecommunications have been the preserve of closely guarded national monopolies, or public telephone boards (PTBs). International telecoms have been governed by an exclusive network of bilateral agreements between individual PTBs, much like those that govern the airline industry. Even those few markets that have introduced a degree of deregulation and liberalisation - such as the United States - have remained largely closed to foreign competition. This is now changing rapidly and in no small measure, it is down to BT.

Domestically BT still looks like an avid defender of monopoly power. More than 10 years after privatisation and deregulation, it still has over 90 per cent of the domestic market. So its defence of monopoly has actually been a highly successful one. From a commercial standpoint, it would have been failing its shareholders if this were not so. However, the failure of competition to take off in Britain is more down to the inexperience of competitors - the cable companies and more particularly Mercury - than anything else.

What is certain is that internationally BT has been very effective in using the example of Britain's experiment in deregulated, open telecoms markets as a way of bringing about change elsewhere. Most notable of its successes is Europe. What is now happening - deregulation of European telecoms and the privatisation of both Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom - would have been almost unthinkable six years ago. Throughout most of the 1980s BT was a whipping boy for public opinion - poor standards of service combined with apparently excessive profits made BT one of the most hated institutions in the land. It was not a model the rest of Europe would have wanted to adopt. Liberalisation was regarded as a ghastly American aberration which had typically managed to wash up on the shores of Britain but very definitely would go no further. The reaction of other PTBs to any suggestion of deregulation in the EU was extremely hostile.

Recovery in manufacturing spreads

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The recovery in manufacturing has spread to eight out of the 12 UK regions, and companies in all regions expect output to rise during the next four months, according to a new survey. But a regional divide is re-emerging as the economy picks up. Industry in the South-east, East Anglia and Celtic fringe is buoyant, while the northern regions, Midlands and South-west remain more subdued.

expect the biggest increases in output in the near future. These four areas - Northern Ireland, Wales, East Anglia and the South East - were generally the most buoyant surveyed. Growth in orders with the North, it reported one of the only drops in business confidence in the latest quarter. Orders have increased in most regions since the last survey. The three exceptions - the South-west, Yorkshire and the

far have failed to materialise, selling prices have declined, and so has business confidence. Yorkshire and Humberside saw a fall in output and orders but firms there expect a strong bounce back. In the South-west the past four months have been flat, but companies there too have become more optimistic about prospects.

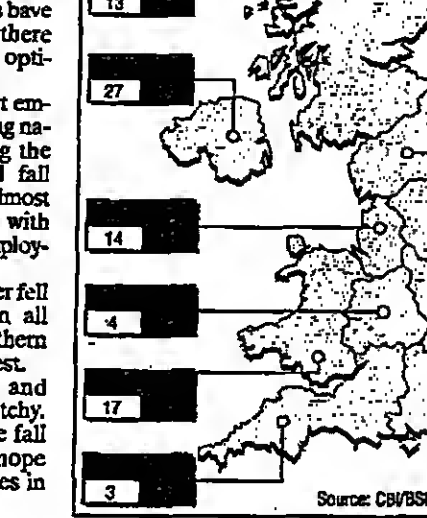
The survey implied that employment in manufacturing nationwide stabilised during the third quarter but could fall again in the fourth. If so, almost all regions will end 1996 with lower manufacturing employment than a year earlier.

Employment last quarter fell in year-on-year terms in all regions except Wales, Northern Ireland and the South-west. Costs have declined and price rises have been patchy. Manufacturers expect the fall in costs to continue, but hope to raise their selling prices in half the regions.

A regional divide is re-emerging as the British economy picks up

was strongest in the first three, while export demand was strongest in Northern Ireland. The report says: "The Northern Ireland numbers are so striking there must be a possibility they are in part a temporary phenomenon." Export demand in the region was much stronger than domestic orders. Manufacturers in Northern Ireland have become the most pessimistic, the survey found, despite the stellar performance during the latest quarter. Along

East Midlands - saw only marginal declines. All areas expect orders to pick up during the next four months, but especially Wales and East Anglia. Levels of optimism are highest in the latter and Scotland. Planned investment is highest in Wales and the South-east. The weakest region is the North, the only one where companies expect output to fall in the next four months. Hopes of improved orders so



Introduction of euro could coin Bank £1bn

Jul Treanor Banking Correspondent

The Bank of England stands to gain nearly £1bn a year by joining the single European currency. In contrast, the Bundesbank, Europe's most profitable central bank, could lose out by more than £1.5bn. France's central bank has most to gain by ditching the franc for the euro, which could make it £2.2bn better off, according to research by Central Banking, a quarterly journal. The Bank of Italy could benefit to the tune of £1bn, while Portugal, Greece, Finland and Luxembourg could also be winners. All seven countries gain at the expense of Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Denmark, Spain, Germany and Sweden, which has most to lose by taking part in monetary union. The research is based on the assumption that all 15 countries join the single currency in 1999.

It also assumes that the profits of the European Central Bank, due to be formed in 1999, will be shared among member states according to their population and contribution to the GDP of the European Union. Based on those assumptions the Bank of England would "own" just over 15 per cent of the European Central Bank, which would have made £15.4bn of profit last year, calculated by adding together the profits of the individual central banks. The Bank of England was one of Europe's most profitable banks in 1995 and stands to gain because its shareholding in the European Central Bank would yield a greater profit than it currently makes. Germany, France and Italy would own larger stakes. However, Germany's 22 per cent shareholding would yield a smaller profit than the Bundesbank currently makes. Last year the Bundesbank made a profit of £5bn. Central banks can generate profits by setting a "minimum reserve requirement" which requires commercial banks to keep a proportion of their assets with the central bank. Central banks also make fees by providing debt management and other services to government or regulatory and settlement services to banks. They also make money on seigniorage - the income from the assets held against the notes and coins in issuance. Comparing the profits of central banks - which in most instances end up in the pockets of government - is tricky because they use different accounting methods and conduct different operations.

General Motors strike cuts US industrial output

A strike at General Motors plants led to a sharp drop in US industrial output last month. Other production was subdued too, but separate figures yesterday showed a rebound in consumer confidence this month compared to last, writes Diane Coyle.

The US bond market fell in reaction to the figures but shares on Wall Street clocked up another gain. The Dow Jones index was nearly 51 points higher at 6,363.68 by midday. Shares had already set a record every day this week, passing the 6,300 mark on Thursday. Thanks to the signs that the economy is steering a safe course combining steady growth with low inflation - along with the markets' ideal election result, a Democratic

President and Republican Congress - the Dow Jones index has ended higher every day so far this month. Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, said yesterday that inflation would remain low despite the low jobless rate. "I don't see signs of inflation re-igniting," he said. The 0.5 per cent fall in industrial output in October was

the first drop for seven months. Most of it was due to lower production of GM cars and trucks, but output excluding autos and parts was 0.1 per cent down compared with the previous month. Production at General Motors, the world's biggest manufacturer, was down 11 per cent during the month because of strikes in the US and Canada.

The Federal Reserve said that capacity use had fallen to 82.7 per cent, the weakest since March. However, Robert Brusca at Nikko Securities said adjusting for the strike there had been only a small slide after several strong months. "We will see a bounce back," he predicted. There was some support for this view from the University of Michigan's consumer confidence indicator. It was reported to have recovered to 98.9 in November from 96.5 last month. Industrial output in Japan is likely to grow 2.9 per cent this quarter, reaching a level 4.6 per cent higher than a year ago, according to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

IN BRIEF

- Invesco said Norman Riddell, its European chief executive, will resign after three-and-a-half years with the company "to pursue new challenges". A spokeswoman denied Mr Riddell's resignation was related with Invesco's purchase of Aim Management Group of the US this month. "He's built up the business over the last three-and-a-half years and he feels he's completed his job here," she added. Mr Riddell will be replaced at the end of the year by Tristan Hillgarth. Invesco also said it would reorganise its operations in Europe and Asia into a global division that will be run by Michael Benson. Bloomberg
- EMI Group has acquired a 50 per cent stake in US independent record company Priority Records from Taram without disclosing financial terms. Priority had sales of \$92.2m (£55m) in the year to 30 June and the company's current artist roster includes Ice Cube, Mack 10, Originals Gunn Clappaz, Jay-Z, and Mase. Priority will continue to be based in Hollywood and will operate independently, EMI said.
- Scottish Life, the Edinburgh-based life company, underlined its commitment to mutual status by raising £125m from a bond issue. The company, which has more than £5bn under management said the money would be used to pursue its activities further, including product development. A spokesman did not rule out takeover bids, although he said this was unlikely at present. Scottish Life, formed in 1881, sells only through independent advisers and recently decided to specialise in pension products.
- Cox Insurance, the insurance underwriter, warned of increased competition in the insurance markets despite showing an increase in operating profits of £3.97m in the six months to 30 September, compared with £259,000 in the same period last year. The company said its recent acquisition of Christopherson Heath Group, the insurance broker, should be "significantly earnings-enhancing", while the reconstruction and renewal package recently agreed by Lloyd's names would remove long-standing liabilities from surviving syndicates.
- A company director who led a lavish life style with thousands of pounds the milked from her employers was jailed for two years at the Old Bailey yesterday. Linda Lines, 43, took £137,000 over a 20-month period - spending it on holidays abroad and casinos in Las Vegas. She had sole responsibility for looking after the books at the Hammer Trust Investment Company, which worked closely with stockbrokers Charles Stanley. Bloomberg
- Apts Healthcare has received an approach which may lead to an offer being made for the company. Such an offer if made is unlikely to be at a significant premium to the current share price of 16.75p, which values the company at almost £13m.
- GWR Group has sold Prospect for £17m cash to The Radio Network of New Zealand, realising a net profit of about £3.8m. Prospect owns 12 radio stations in Auckland and Hamilton.



Definite bidder: Lawrie Lewis, founder of Blenheim

At least two firm bids were submitted yesterday for Nottingham Forest, the struggling Premiership football club. However, as the deadline for offers passed yesterday afternoon there was speculation that other bidders might still be in the frame including a consortium involving Norwegian agent Rune Hauge, who was at the

centre of the Arsenal "bungs" scandal. Definite bids have been tabled by a consortium involving Lawrie Lewis, the founder of Blenheim Group, the exhibitions company that was recently sold for £400m. Irving Schiller, the former Tottenham Hotspur chairman, and Phil Sosa, a former chief executive of Blenheim who is also a Forest supporter and an author of

football books. Their bid is thought to be for around £12.5m cash with plans to raise a further £20m through a stock market flotation. The second bid is from a group of Nottingham businessmen, fronted by chartered accountants BDO Stoy Hayward. This is also a cash bid thought to be in the region of £15m. However, the Stoy Hayward group has ruled out an immediate stock market flotation due to the club's lowly league position and poor profit record. It hopes to improve the club's finances and groom it for a flotation in three to four years. Mr Hauge, who also led a consortium that lost out in the bid for Leeds United earlier this year, is said to have expressed an interest in Forest. It is understood that Grant Bovey, a 35-year-old Nottingham-born businessman, has pulled out of the bidding. It is also thought that John Breckenkamp, a former arms dealer who now manages the affairs of top sporting personalities, has not tabled an offer. Forest is under pressure to resolve its ownership structure quickly as the uncertainty could affect the team's performance. Forest are currently second from bottom in the Premiership.

Competition for Forest hotting up

Alternative routes to the investor's holy grail

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

In recent years there has been a flurry of attempts to systematise stock selection by using a series of purely financial sieves to reduce a large universe of shares to a manageable, and hopefully outperforming, portfolio. It is the investment equivalent of the search for the holy grail - stock market success with a minimum of knowledge or effort. The criteria used have varied considerably but all have been made possible by the enormously improved power of computers which has allowed the sort of wide-ranging probing of company databases that investors could only dream of until recently. An important assumption these systems tend to share is the belief that finding stocks that will outperform their wider markets can be done using essentially mechanical means and rigid statistical criteria. Not surprisingly this approach to investment has been greeted with scepticism by the professional investment community, the livelihood of which depends on the opposite assumption - that investment is an art, not a science, and as such dependent on the expertise found in just that professional investment community. A research note issued this

week by UBS, the Swiss investment bank, underlined the divide, dismissing many of Mr Slater's claims on its way to coming up with a portfolio of six long-term investment tips. It concludes with four investment "rules": there is no easy system for valuing growth stocks; the PEG ratio is no better or worse than any other valuation methods; past earnings growth is no sure indication of future growth and choosing

stocks on the basis of highest forecast growth does not generate above average returns. Finally it advises investors to pick growth stocks on the basis of their "qualitative" characteristics and their impact on earnings momentum. As such of course, the note is little more than an apology for expensive stockbrokers' research departments. But what is really interesting is that the 12 "qualitative" criteria UBS proposes are remarkably similar to the subjective criteria Mr Slater uses in conjunction with his financial sieves in his latest book, *Beyond the Zulu Principle*. The only difference is that he uses the numbers to find companies that satisfy the criteria while UBS suggests using the criteria to find companies that cut the mustard financially. The two approaches look increasingly like flip-sides of the same coin. The criteria are really only common sense, but no less valuable for that. Invest in companies, they suggest, operating in growing markets such as information technology, the media or pharmaceuticals, with growing market share, protected by high barriers to entry and with little pricing pressure thanks to positions in fragmented industries, producing branded goods or crucial services. Other sensible criteria include a management with a clear business strategy, an ability to market a good product effectively, a new product pipeline and the potential to replicate success at home in overseas markets. This is especially important in the Mid-250 index from which the companies in the table were

UBS's 'six for success'						
Bovhorte CMG Compass LUS Sento Spina-Sento						
Growing market	•	•	•	•	•	•
Expanding market share	•	•	•	•	•	•
High barriers to entry	•	•	•	•	•	•
Low pricing pressure	•	•	•	•	•	•
Strategic management	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ability to duplicate internationally	•	•	•	•	•	•
Strong marketing	•	•	•	•	•	•
New product development	•	•	•	•	•	•
Low earnings volatility	•	•	•	•	•	•
Low cycle sensitivity	•	•	•	•	•	•
Growing or stable margins	•	•	•	•	•	•
Transparent accounting	•	•	•	•	•	•
Market cap. (£m)	915	483	1930	536	383	579
5 year forecast growth rate (%)	8	20	17	22	18	12

sport



All set for battle of the titans

Cardiff and Bath renew hostilities in the European Cup today. Chris Hewett reports

It might have been organised by Don King. Two battle-scarred warriors, seated at the same long table but separated by a respectable distance, were weighing up the prospects for their latest confrontation in time-honoured style, their words laced with fighting hyperbole.

"We respect them, but we certainly don't hold them in awe," Terry Holmes said. "We've been saying we're the best in Europe for years, so it's time to put up or shut up."

Given that neither man is actually participating in this afternoon's eagerly awaited Heineken European Cup quarter-final between Cardiff and Bath at the Arms Park - Holmes now coaches the all-English Welsh outfit while Hall is director of rugby with the English champions - heaven only knows what the players will say about the game once they slam the doors of their respective dressing-rooms and get down to brass tacks. The bath-hoo has been building all week and just for once, every last ounce of it has carried its own justification.

The two clubs have been taking pot-shots at each other since 1924, but the real rivalry

began a little over a decade ago when Welshmen poured over the Severn Bridge in their thousands for a Wednesday night fixture at the Recreation Ground. In an age of club friendlies - there were no domestic leagues in 1985, let alone any authoritative Continental competition - the game somehow took the mantle of a mini-international and matched expectations so completely that it is still recalled whenever rugby is discussed in either city.

With around 12,000 sardined into the arena - the official head count of 9,000 was aimed more at the taxman than anyone else - Bath won a gladiatorial encounter 16-13, scoring three tries to one. The best of them fell to Hall, careered over the line with sundry Welshmen hanging from his jersey, while Holmes, who had been responsible for Cardiff's lone strike, might have snatched victory at the death but for a crooked feed to a five-metre scrum.

"Don't remind me," said the legendary scrum-half, whose rich experience with Wales and the Lions has never been able to blunt the sharp images he retained from that defeat on the banks of the Avon. "I can remember pretty much



Terry Holmes, Cardiff's coach (right), says his team are not in awe of Bath, whose director of rugby, John Hall (top left), claims that the English champions are 'the best in Europe'. As a player, Hall never managed to win a match in Cardiff

everything about the game, which was a truly tremendous contest.

"Bath were just on the rise at that point after years of playing second fiddle to their neighbours, Bristol and Gloucester, and I suppose there was a best-of-Britain feel to the occasion. Certainly, there was a fantastic edge to the atmosphere."

"I think we can expect a similar atmosphere for this game, for I'm sure it will live up to its billing."

"This is a huge challenge for us. Bath have been so successful

over the last few years that you have to put them right up there with the likes of Toulouse in terms of quality and achievement. But to succeed at this level you have to meet and beat the best."

"Both sides have outstanding players at their disposal, so it will all boil down to which players deliver when it's most needed."

Rather like Holmes, who ended his Lions Test appearance against New Zealand in Christchurch in 1983 with his right knee in pieces, Hall suffered so badly from similar injuries that his international

career left him short-changed in terms of fulfilment of potential. As a result, his commitment to Bath's assault on club rugby's holy trinity of titles - the Courage League, the Pilkington Cup and, most importantly, the Heineken Cup - is intensely personal.

"I failed to manage a single victory in Cardiff as a player," he said during a visit to the Arms Park this week. "It wasn't for the want of trying. I finished on the losing side four, perhaps five times here."

"It was always a huge game

in the days before the national leagues were set up and for some reason or other, we never seemed able to squeeze out a result, no matter how strong a side we sent over the bridge."

In fact, Bath have won only once in Cardiff in 72 years. Having avoided defeat for the first time by drawing 10-10 in 1990, they went one better the following year by inching home 10-9 in a game notable for the fact that Gareth Chalkoff, the redoubtable West Country prop, failed to notice the sending-off of Ben Clarke and spent

the rest of the afternoon berating his absent team-mate for his lack of effort in the scrums.

"Ever since the draw paled the two clubs together, people have been saying that it's all about England versus Wales," said Hall, delving deep into the Bill Shankly book of sporting exaggeration. "As far as I'm concerned, it's far more important than that. This is about Bath and Cardiff."

Just like the late, great man of Liverpool, he meant every word.

England's new boys have to play on

The Bristol lock Simon Shaw will be alone in taking the traditional day off today as he prepares to make his England debut against Italy at Twickenham next Saturday. That luxury is not afforded to his fellow new caps, Tim Stimpson, Adebayo Adebayo and Andy Gomersall.

Bristol's failure to reach the European Conference quarter-finals sees Shaw resting his fit 9in frame during another busy round of European and domestic fixtures.

Adebayo is on the wing for Bath at Cardiff in the European Cup, while the Newcastle full-back Stimpson and the Wasps scrum-half Gomersall lead their clubs' bid for two more precious league points.

Ways will go second on points difference behind the First Division leaders Harlequins if, as expected, they defeat struggling London Irish at Sunbury.

Gomersall is partnered by the England replacement Alex King. Va'aiga Tuigamala returns from Western Samoan duties in Ireland, while the ex-Bath pair Damian Crocin and Andy Reed form an all-Scottish second-row partnership.

Today's other rearranged First Division game takes Gloucester to Orrell, with their coaching director, Richard Hill, predicting a victory which would put them alongside Bristol in eighth place. "Orrell will play with real local pride and determination, but I am very confident after our win at West Hartlepool last Saturday," Hill said.

Stimpson declined an offer to sit out Newcastle's Second Division match at London Scottish. Newcastle's scrum-half Gary Armstrong is ruled out by a broken leg, an injury which threatens to ruin his chances of joining the Newcastle player/coach Rob Andrew in the Barbarians line-up against Australia at Twickenham on 7 December.

Richmond should not encounter too many problems when they visit Nottingham, but second-placed Coventry can expect a much tougher time at Bedford, who have been beaten only once in seven league outings since mid-September.

Tim Grady, of Edinburgh Wanderers, has been banned for 18 months following an incident in which an opponent suffered facial injuries.

The Scottish Rugby Union have suspended Grady until 16 May 1998, after he was cited following an incident in his side's Tinnents National League match against Portobello FP last month.

Scott Hastings, Scotland's most-capped player, has signed a full-time contract with the SRU, bringing the number of professionals to 40. The 31-year-old centre, who was dropped for Scotland's match against Australia last Saturday, did not sign up straight away when offered a contract.

There has also been no commitment from the winger Ken Logan, who is rumoured to have been approached by a leading English club. Peter Wright and Stewart Campbell are also holding back from signing contracts.

Harlequins try to adopt mantle of underdogs

DAVID LLEWELLYN

If the two captains and Dick Best are to be believed the European Cup quarter-final between Leicester and Harlequins at Welford Road today is a battle of the underdogs. Best, the Quins director of rugby, insists: "We are the outsiders." He is echoed by the Quins captain, Jason Leonard, who says: "We are going there as the underdogs."

The Tigers captain, Dean

Richards, reckons the two Harlequins are barking up the wrong tree. He is aware that Quins have a superior record at Leicester, having won four of their last seven Courage League and Pilkington Cup matches there, but he said: "I think Jason's comment that they are the underdogs, especially when you look at their present form, is a bit inaccurate."

Richards claims that everything is different now given the additions that have been

made to the Harlequin squad from various sources over the summer. "We have played against people in Harlequins shirts before, but not the same people we will be playing tomorrow. And the style they are playing is different."

"There is an unknown element to them this year compared with the Quins sides we have played over the last couple of seasons. The two Llewellyn brothers in the second-row, Laurent Benzezech and Keith Wood

in the front row and Laurent Cabannes and Bill Davison in the back three make it six out of eight changes in the pack alone."

Neil Back has his second match in the Tigers' back-row following his six-month suspension with Rob Lilley being retained ahead of his brother, John, as goal-kicker. Robbie Paul's injury means Will Carling returns to centre and he has lost the goal-kicking role to outside-half Paul Challinor. According to Best the pair are

having a private shoot-out to see who is on form but Challinor starts as kicker anyway.

One goal-kicker who is going to miss out is Bath's full-back Jon Callard. He has been dropped in favour of Jason Robinson for the tie at Cardiff, with Mike Catt taking over the kicking duties. Henry Paul, Bath's other Wigan rugby league back, is on the bench.

A crisis at hooker - Graham Dawe (elbow) and Gareth Adams (shoulder) are out, while

Neil McCarthy, a recent draftee to England's ever-growing training squad is overlooked - means Gary French turns out for only his ninth first-team match in two and a half seasons with the club.

In the other tie being played today, Dax meet the holders Toulouse in a repeat of last season's French championship semi-final, which the latter won. It does not look too promising for Llanelli in the other quarter-final at Brive tomorrow. The Scarlets lost two pool matches

in qualifying, while their opponents were unbeaten.

There is more hope for Northampton, Britain's sole representatives in the secondary competition, the European Conference. They entertain Narbonne, one of seven French sides to reach the last eight. Tim Rodber has recovered from a gash in a leg which needed seven stitches last week, and Saints have Scotland's Gregor Townsend and Ireland's Jonathan Bell and Allen Clarke back.

League celebrates Australian ruling

Rugby League

The Rupert Murdoch-backed Super League overcame the last remaining legal threat to its proposed kick-off in Australia next year when the country's highest court in Sydney denied the Australian Rugby League leave to appeal against an earlier ruling which freed the Super League to start in 1997.

The court ruling ends a 14-month legal wrangle and means the 10-team Super League will run in direct competition to the 12 teams in the existing ARL Premiership next season.

It also gives the Super League International Board the green light to launch a series of global contests at club and international level, including a 22-team World Club Championship.

The news delighted the British Rugby League with their broadcast manager, Dave Callaghan, saying: "This gives us a marvellous opportunity to take the concept of Super League forward."

"We now plan a series of exciting announcements, starting next week when more details will be unveiled about the World Club Championship."

without the nagging doubt that a court might alter things."

A fixture list incorporating matches between the 12 European Super League teams and the 10 Australian sides will be announced next Wednesday.

The ARL chairman, Ken Arthurson, said the eventual winner in Australia would now be decided by the quality of the rival competitors. "The good news is that the arguments are now confined to the football field," Arthurson said.

Wigan's quartet of players currently playing rugby union, Henry Paul (Bath), Va'aiga Tuigamala (Wasps), Gary Connolly (Harlequins) and Jason Robinson (Bath), will be back for the club's challenge matches with St Helens on Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

The points that Motherwell have let slip in their last five games in the Scottish Premier Division. Today, they travel to Rugby Park to face Kilmarnock who are level on points with Motherwell in next-to-bottom place.

TODAY'S NUMBER

14

HUNTINGDON

1.00 Mr Percy 1.30 Belmonta 2.00 Lively Knight (2) 2.50 Elburg 3.00 Shining Light 3.35 Mendelore

GOING: Good. 11.30 Race, level course. Run-in 200yds. 11.30 Race, level course. Run-in 200yds. 11.30 Race, level course. Run-in 200yds.

1.00 KIMBOLTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds

1.00 KIMBOLTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds. 1.00 KIMBOLTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds. 1.00 KIMBOLTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds.

1.30 SOUTHOVE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 2m 110yds

1.30 SOUTHOVE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 2m 110yds. 1.30 SOUTHOVE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 2m 110yds. 1.30 SOUTHOVE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 2m 110yds.

2.00 TOSLAND NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

2.00 TOSLAND NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 4f 110yds. 2.00 TOSLAND NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 4f 110yds. 2.00 TOSLAND NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 4f 110yds.

2.30 BUSINESS CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 3m 2f

2.30 BUSINESS CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 3m 2f. 2.30 BUSINESS CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 3m 2f. 2.30 BUSINESS CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 3m 2f.

3.00 MACER GIFFORD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

3.00 MACER GIFFORD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f 110yds. 3.00 MACER GIFFORD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f 110yds. 3.00 MACER GIFFORD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f 110yds.

7.00 AMARYLLIS 7.30 HILL FARM DANCER 8.00 GARNOCK VALLEY 8.30 So Amazing 9.00 Figlia 9.30 Sharp Command

7.00 AMARYLLIS 7.30 HILL FARM DANCER 8.00 GARNOCK VALLEY 8.30 So Amazing 9.00 Figlia 9.30 Sharp Command. 7.00 AMARYLLIS 7.30 HILL FARM DANCER 8.00 GARNOCK VALLEY 8.30 So Amazing 9.00 Figlia 9.30 Sharp Command.

7.00 POPULAR MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 7f

7.00 POPULAR MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 7f. 7.00 POPULAR MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 7f. 7.00 POPULAR MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 7f.

7.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f

7.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f. 7.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f. 7.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f.

8.30 ESSENCE OF CLOCKS (LICHFIELD) HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 1m 100yds

8.30 ESSENCE OF CLOCKS (LICHFIELD) HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 1m 100yds. 8.30 ESSENCE OF CLOCKS (LICHFIELD) HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 1m 100yds. 8.30 ESSENCE OF CLOCKS (LICHFIELD) HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 1m 100yds.

9.00 PLYNNE CATERING SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2m 8f

9.00 PLYNNE CATERING SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2m 8f. 9.00 PLYNNE CATERING SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2m 8f. 9.00 PLYNNE CATERING SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2m 8f.

9.30 HAWTHORN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 6f 160yds

9.30 HAWTHORN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 6f 160yds. 9.30 HAWTHORN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 6f 160yds. 9.30 HAWTHORN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 6f 160yds.

8.00 S J DOONS & SONS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f

8.00 S J DOONS & SONS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f. 8.00 S J DOONS & SONS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f. 8.00 S J DOONS & SONS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f.

8.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f

8.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f. 8.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f. 8.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f.

8.00 S J DOONS & SONS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f

8.00 S J DOONS & SONS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f. 8.00 S J DOONS & SONS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f. 8.00 S J DOONS & SONS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f.

8.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f

8.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f. 8.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f. 8.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f.

8.00 S J DOONS & SONS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f

8.00 S J DOONS & SONS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f. 8.00 S J DOONS & SONS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f. 8.00 S J DOONS & SONS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f.

8.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f

8.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f. 8.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f. 8.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f.

sport

Best is yet to come for Bergkamp

Gardening, shopping, goalscoring – they all come easily to Arsenal's debonair Dutchman. He talked to Glenn Moore

The professionals are agreed: Dennis Bergkamp is special. "A great player," Don Howe, England's most experienced coach, said. "He's got class," said one of his fellow Premiership strikers, Dean Holdsworth of Wimbledon. He is even skilful by Dutch standards. Bert van Lingen, staff coach of the Dutch FA and assistant to the national team said: "He has fabulous technical skills."

The public, however, seem to be unsure. Bergkamp's goals are as spectacular as Jürgen Klinsmann's, his sleight of foot more bewitching, his team more successful – Arsenal sit in second place for 10 days' visit to Manchester United. So why has Bergkamp not swept the country like Klinsmania did?

It may be because everyone affects to hate Arsenal. It may be because the spotlight has moved on to Ravanelli, Vialli and Zola. But it is more probably because Bergkamp is simply not that type of player, not that type of man. He is un-demonstrative on the pitch and private off it.

We met yesterday, just before he boarded the team coach to travel to Old Trafford. He preferred talking about football to his personal life and was eager to quash comparisons.

He had been quoted as saying he wanted to be more successful here than Klinsmann, but he denied this: "I did not say that. You cannot compare players. Every person is different. Even the way he played at Tottenham is different to the way I play at Arsenal. I was compared for many years to Marco van Basten, but I am not like him either."

Bergkamp has played in Klinsmann's centre-forward role with Internazionale in Italy and, at times, with the Netherlands. At Arsenal, however, he plays about 15 yards behind Ian Wright.

"I like to play there, but every game is different," he said. "I start there, but it can

change. You have to learn where the space is in each game, that is where I like to go. Ian is a very good player. Easy to find, easy to play with, and a great finisher."

Easy to find. Watch Bergkamp and you see an unselfish, positive player. Howe said: "A lot of forwards in this country come on to the ball, lay it back to midfield and go again. He gets it and he wants to turn and play it into Ian Wright, to go forward."

Bergkamp agreed: "That is what I like most – to go straight to the goal – and Ian is a player who wants that as well."

Wright's goals are one reason why Bergkamp has not

'The football is more attractive here, for the players and the fans. Teams try to score goals'

monopolised the headlines. The other is his lifestyle. He lives quietly with his wife, Henrita, and eight-month-old baby, Estelle, in a leafy area near the northern edge of the M25. He is so settled he even spent his summer break there rather than return to the Netherlands. Life consists of gardening – he has been spotted stocking up at a local garden centre – and "we go for walks, do some shopping. In the evenings we don't do much because of the baby."

What's this? Attack-minded player with "boring Arsenal"? A quiet family man among a dressing-room famed for its hell-raisers? He must be the odd one out.

Far from it. After Italy, where he felt unfairly blamed for Internazionale's struggles and oppressed by the intensity of the dressing room, he is enjoying Arsenal. While rarely

taking the lead in dressing-room banter, he feels at ease. "It is much more relaxed," he said. "You are allowed to do your own warm-up and preparation. And we have music. We don't know in Holland or Italy about music before the game, very loud music too, that is not allowed. It is good. Arsena Wenger has changed a few things – mainly the time we arrive, much earlier – but he has left the music. It will surprise nobody that Wright is the music master."

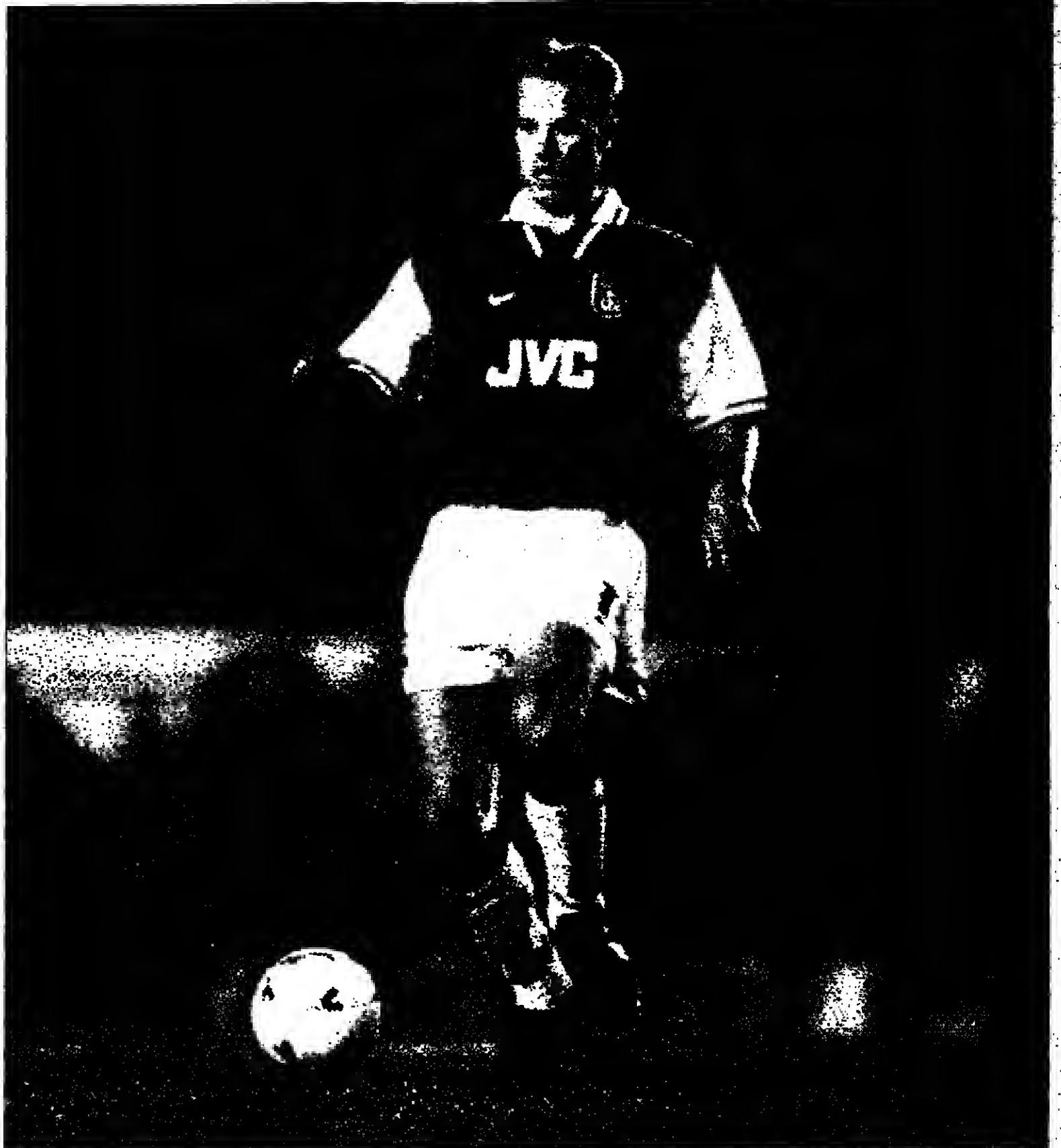
Van Lingen, speaking from his experience with the Dutch team, added: "He needs a good environment. It is very important that he feels comfortable and he does in England. The atmosphere is more about football, less about the press and business."

Bergkamp said: "The football is fine, the private life is great. I have no complaints. Sometimes people recognise you, but they leave you alone. That's nice. You can be yourself. You are not really special in a big town like London. In Italy they want to touch you, to talk to you, to follow you."

"The football is more attractive here, for the players and the fans. Teams try to score goals. The fans won't allow you to pass it around the back five or six times. They want it forward. A draw is not enough, even for teams near the bottom."

"It is mainly what I expected. People go on about Cantona – how he finds space, the way he combines midfield and attack. Bergkamp plays that role as well as anyone. There is another parallel in the way they play when they are further up. They have both done it and neither looked comfortable."

"He doesn't get the headers that Cantona gets, those far-post goals. He could get a few more head-and-butler goals, but he probably thinks he gets enough. Besides, at Arsenal Wrighty is in those positions. He gets chances around the D



Bergkamp enjoying Highbury's open spaces against Stoke this week: 'You have to learn where the space is in each game' Photograph: Peter Jay

son, with Eric Cantona. Howe said: "People go on about Cantona – how he finds space, the way he combines midfield and attack. Bergkamp plays that role as well as anyone. There is another parallel in the way they play when they are further up. They have both done it and neither looked comfortable."

"He's a Rolls Royce, he's so smooth, his vision is perfect. He knows just where to be at the right time. And when he gets there he's got a lovely touch. Whether he's playing a little pass, or a flick, or a firm ball into Wright, he recognises very quickly what is required and carries it out. His education as a young player must have been fantastic."

Bergkamp was schooled at Ajax, but he was a late starter. "I could have joined at nine but Ajax was different. It was all people who thought they were rich but weren't. I didn't like them very much. After a few years it changed. A lot of normal players went there and I joined."

The electrician's son was given his debut at 16 by Johan Cruyff. At 20 he made his international debut. With 28 goals from 51 games he is now seven behind Fias Wilkes' pre-war Dutch record of 35. He has a better international

strike-rate than Van Basten, but a poorer one than Cruyff. In the summer of 1993 he joined Inter for £8m before moving to Arsenal for £7.5m two years later.

The Arsenal fans love him, partly because, as one admitted, "he is emblematic of what we want to be". He is stylish, exotic, skilful and envied. Last year he scored 16 goals. This year, despite hamstring and knee troubles, he has four in 10 starts – not bad when the best chances are snaffled by Wright.

Most importantly for Arsenal fans, Bergkamp, unlike Klinsmann, is still here. He shows no sign of wishing to leave before the end of his four-year deal and he should get better. "He's done well for Arsenal," Holdsworth said, "but I think there is probably more to come. We've seen a taste."

"I try to be better every year," Bergkamp said. "So far it is better than at this time last season. I am finding my form now."

"He is a slow starter," Van Lingen concluded. "We think he will go on to bigger achievements."

No 192

England

FAN'S EYE VIEW

by Brent Molynieux

Anyone looking for trouble steers well clear of the England Travel Club. A vetting process which puts M15 to shame, the only criminal record these guys have got is "Diamond Lights". They are the Jehovah's Witnesses of the modern game: Fantasy Football meets Dennis Hopper. We've all paid £300 to leave Luton at 10.30pm on Friday and arrive in Tbilisi at dawn on Saturday.

A five-hour flight. Dennis Bergkamp gags all round. Someone standing next to me starts telling a customs officer at Tbilisi airport that he hasn't missed a Blyth Spartans away match in five years. He doesn't blink. He doesn't smile. Nor does the customs officer.

Deposited in Republican Square at 9am local time, we make for the Mtskheta Palace Hotel, temporary headquarters for the Football Association. We hope to breakfast with Glenn and the team but when we get there the players are holed up, out of view, on the ninth floor playing combat video games to ward off homesickness. A sign at the hotel entrance requests that automatic weapons be left in reception. Everyone in the lobby has a mustache. I become confused. Why is John Gorman serving me coffee? Four sailors from HMS Nottingham sit in the bar. I crack a weak gig about having seen Scamton. We get a taxi back into town – a white knuckle ride of the Patrick Kluwert variety. I look closely at the driver in case Tony Adams is fluent in Georgian.

Back in town, we do the sights. We check out the Soviet monoliths, the Armenian Orthodox churches, and the underground. A guy with a Manchester United card goes us. I ask him if the funicular railway is worth the ride. He looks at me blankly and flash-

es a smile created by Ken Dodd's orthodontist. "Spartak Moscow," he replies. At least he's not from Hampshire. A Georgian with a guide book tells us to visit the "famous sulphur baths". When we get there we find a shower room packed with naked Georgians, hung like donkeys and grinning like Emlyn Hughes.

Back at base, our fellow travellers have pitched camp in bars a short pass from the drop-off point. The talk is of Christmas trees and wing-backs. Kinkadze and Gascoigne. At the back of my mind memories stir – memories of Max Boyce – "At least I can say I was there." Perhaps he should bring his act to Tbilisi. Judging by the shops they would book him for the leeks. People criticise the beer. Nobody mentions Manchester City.

Six hours after we arrive we are collected by a fleet of FA coaches and make our way into Paichaidze stadium. We are told our hosts are "notoriously partisan" and fear the worst. The Georgians start strongly. Our coaches met by a throng of moustaches, clenched-fist salutes and pictures of a smiling Graham Taylor. The police band, attuned by years of Soviet rule to trying mind games, play both verses of the national anthem. After a pause we sing the first verse again. First blood. Ultimately, however, the home support disappoints. We start chanting, "You're supposed to be at home." Perhaps they translate the tone, shooting off a barrage of shrill whistles, which is in turn greeted by ironic applause. As a contest the second goal ends the match – "You're not whistling any more," we sing. We land at Luton at 11pm on Saturday. We miss the last train on Thameslink. "Judgement Night" ebbs away. But we were definitely there.

MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

TODAY 3.0 unless stated		FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round		Premier Division		Third Division		Third Division	
FA Cup first round</							

Star-studded cast lace their kinky boots with a size-10 haul

Kinky boots might have failed to do damage to England's goals against column in Georgia, but elsewhere last weekend the shooting boots were obviously on the right feet. The Dutch, Yugoslavs and Macedonians blasted 24 goals between them in their World Cup qualifying, while Falkirk got their shooting boots on in time to score four in the last seven minutes against rivals Stirling Albion. Peter Van Vossen, meanwhile, could have been wearing clogs: his miss in Thursday's Old Firm match was that bad. But the drubbing his Dutch team-mates gave Wales will have left Bobby Gould's boys dreading Turkey at Christmas. England, cooversely, will enjoy their Christmas turkey, and approach the game against Italy in March with more optimism

than will be afforded them by the record books: they've won just six of their 17 encounters with Italy, the biggest victory, 4-0, coming in Turin in 1948. No mean feat that - which was certainly true of a forward line that day which boasted Finney, Matthews, Mannion, Lawton and Mortensen.

Sir Stanley Matthews says it was "the best England forward line I ever played in". But the comprehensive nature of the victory was due in no small part to the revolutionary pair of go-faster boots the Wizard of Dribble was wearing for "that extra edge" (as if he needed one; the joke was that Matthews was so fast he could turn off his bedroom light and be in bed before the room got dark).

Matthews was also quick to add that he was going to be quicker than any one else, also had to be lighter (a belief the spindly Steve McNamman, arguably the nearest thing

to a latterday Matthews, clearly shares). "Before the War we had boots with steel plates and toe caps," Matthews remembers. "I wanted to wear black rugby boots, which were lighter, but I was too shy - everyone wore brown boots in those days. But after the War I asked the Yorkshire factory where the boots were made if they could make them lighter. They removed the plates and toe caps and nailed in the studs, later we got screw-in studs. The boots were so thin they never lasted more than five games, the studs would come away."

Matthews still keeps a pair of those old boots in his car, unceremoniously wrapped in a plastic bag. He was he was "in love with them". "I could fold them in half and put them in my pocket, they were so light." In fact they weighed just 1lb 6oz. No wonder Johnny Carey likened playing against

Matthews to "playing against a ghost".

Matthews got £50 from the Co-Op Wholesale Society for endorsing the boots, which seems peanuts compared with deals like the one Ryan Giggs has recently signed with Reebok, worth between £6m and £8m (depending on which

tabloid you believe). Giggs first signed with Reebok in 1993, but looked to have burned his boots - and his boots - when he cut off his flowing locks, infuriating Reebok's case of them getting too big for their boots, perhaps? Obviously not, for the locks soon reappeared.

Now Reebok clearly consider Giggs to be a good investment - according to their spokesman, Chris Lewis, "the transcendent footballer's tribal barriers in that, although he plays for United, he's still respected by other fans. He's an idol across the board" - and won't be giving him the boot until well into the 21st century.

So whether they are red (John Fashanu, John Barnes, Stan Collymore), white (Alan Ball, Paolo Di Canio) or even yellow (Herbert Chapman), or whether they're size 12s like Bill Shankly's or tiny size eights like Dwight Yorke's, boots - like everything else in football - are

big business. The launch of Adidas Predator in 1994 highlighted this, but the other boot companies have come out all studs showing in an attempt to wrestle the biggest market share away from Adidas.

As yet, in value, the highest seller is still Adidas Predator Tractor boot (£99.99), although Umbro's Shearwater Special (£79.99), the Mizuno Pro SI (£79.99) - as modelled by Jamie Redknapp - the Giggs Pro Sidewinder (£69.99), Diadora's George Weah boots (£85.99) and Nike's Rio (£69.99), responsible for Ian Wright's brace against Stoke, are close on the Predator's heels.

One wonders about sales figures for the Cole Sidewinders...

For the most expensive boots on the market, however, look no further than the feet of Roy Adams, who has just signed a two-year deal for Asics to wear their TSS900s. With all due respect to Adams, perhaps it is lucky

he is no role model in the mould of Giggs or Redknapp, because the Asics boots will set some poor unsuspecting parent back a cool £120, or £200 for the ultra-light version.

One presumes that, being a defender, the boots give Adams greater adaptability. But try telling that to Matthews. "Who defends now?" he asks. "In my day we were raiders; it was the defenders' job to stop us. They stuck to us like glue, I remember Mel Hopkins of Spurs following me into my own goalmouth. I sweated buckets trying to get away from him. I never spoke to my opponents but I told him I'd had enough, was off to the dressing-room. He replied: 'I'll follow you!'"

"Nowadays, no one knows how to tackle. Defenders sit back, and when they come up against the player, they just can't do it."

Well, Sir Stanley always did know how to put the boot in.

Olivia Blair



ON SATURDAY

Matthews to "playing against a ghost".

Matthews got £50 from the Co-Op Wholesale Society for endorsing the boots, which seems peanuts compared with deals like the one Ryan Giggs has recently signed with Reebok, worth between £6m and £8m (depending on which

Alner's vision lets 'Kiddy' grow up

Kidderminster visit their mirror image in today's FA Cup tie at Gresty Road. Phil Shaw reports

Only one part of the furniture avoided being slung in the skip when the old architecture of Kidderminster Harriers' home gave way to plush new offices, changing rooms, reception area, restaurant and bar last summer. His name is Graham Alner, writes Phil Shaw.

In an era when chairman remove managers with all the subtlety of cowboy builders ripping out fittings, Alner has become a fixture at Aggborough. At the start of this month he began his 14th year in charge of the Worcestershire club, a reign untroubled by Vauxhall Conference history.

Today, the FA Cup's enduring capacity for coincidence pits the 47-year-old Brummie against the only member of his profession who has survived and thrived longer at one club. By the time Kidderminster lured Alner from the now-defunct AP Leamington, Darío Gradi was already six months into his tenure at Crewe Alexandra.

The achievements of the men occupying the respective dugouts at Gresty Road bear witness not only to the value of continuity, and of a patient hand, but also to the vision of Alner and Gradi. Both were determined to create a club whose involvement with the community extended beyond relieving them of their cash every week.

Crewe, festering away in the former Fourth Division for two decades, are again vying for promotion to the First. Their success has been founded on Gradi's ability to spot and develop talent in players as young as seven or eight. There are clear parallels with the set-up Alner has evolved at Kidderminster, who are themselves on course for the Football League place they were so harshly denied in 1994 because of the standard of their stadium.

"We've gone down the same road as Crewe, though it's not so easy to do as a non-League club," Alner said. "I think we're the only one in the Centres of Excellence scheme, and we've got well over a hundred boys attached to the club."

"I always say to people: 'If you want to see this football club at work, at its best, go to the Astroturf when all the kids come on a Thursday night.'"

Gradi's production line of prodigies - from David Platt through Roh Jones to Neil Lennon - is legendary. Alner has raised £300,000 by selling home-grown players like Richard Forsyth, Paul Jones and Steve Lilwall to League clubs, and he currently has a forward, Lee Hughes, attracting six-figure bids. Hughes has recently rejected offers to train with Premiership teams, preferring to be judged on his form for Kidderminster.

"Lee feels it would be disruptive," Alner explained. "And since we're in the black, for the first time I can remember, there's no pressure to sell. He's capable of playing at the highest level eventually, but he wants to see us into the League first."

(Alner had just said how much Hughes had matured when, to our mutual mirth, we noticed a photo of him, sticking his tongue out like a Gazza, on the cover of the Harriers fanzine *The Keeper Looks Like Elvis*.)

Kidderminster are three points clear at the Conference summit. With a swish new stand in place, they had the requisite ground-grading to be accepted into the Third Division even before the latest refurbishments. After three Wembley finals in the FA Trophy, two Welsh Cup finals, one championship and a run to the last 16 of the FA Cup,



Graham Alner this month began his 14th year in charge of the GM Vauxhall Conference club Kidderminster Harriers

Photograph: David Ashdown

promotion would be Alner's crowning glory.

"We're a League club in all but status now," he said, though they were bottom of the table when he arrived in the carpet-making town. "The short-term aim was to get out of trouble. In the long term I wanted to build a top non-League club, like an Altrincham or a Telford, who were the Manchester United of our level."

"The facilities were very basic and we had just 15 players with no reserve team. Our average gate was 600 (it is now 2,200), and there was a cycle track round the pitch which meant there was no atmosphere. When the wind was blowing up here on a Saturday afternoon, it was desperate."

"On my first day we lost at home to Willenhall in the Staffs Senior Cup. But on the Saturday we beat Macclesfield 9-1 in

the Welsh Cup, which raised spirits a bit, and I remember saying to my assistant: 'That lad doesn't look bad'. It was Paul Davies, who's still here as player-coach having played [checkers programme] 596 games plus 26 as sub."

Davies, the Conference's all-time record scorer, is one of a dwindling band of survivors from the title campaign. After two seasons in which a horrendous injury list and a reaction to the anticlimax of being kept down blunted their challenge, Alner, by now working full-time as manager, set about rebuilding on the pitch. His probable front three at Crewe - Hughes, James McCue (from Partick Thistle) and Neil Doherty (ex-Birmingham) - exemplify the new "Kiddy".

Meatloaf of Birmingham makes Alner misty-eyed over what he describes as the high-

light of his Kidderminster career, the third-round victory there three seasons ago. "I remember watching the lads and the chairman (Dave Reynolds) run over to the Spioo Kop. The Blues fans rose to them. I see that, at the club I'd always supported myself, made my spine tingle."

"I go flat immediately after a game, and it was the same at St Andrew's. I don't go silly until five hours afterwards when I've got a few drinks down me. I still live in the city and it was fantastic being out that night. Every now and then I'd look up and there I was, being interviewed on Sky."

There have been dark moments, too. After a Trophy defeat at Yeovil in 1992, angry fans rounded on him "big time". Alner also squirms at the thought of how he persuaded a dubious Reynolds to sanction an

overnight stay before a match at Barrow, late in the same season. "We lost 5-1 and ended up having to win our last game at Gateshead to stay up."

By another coincidence, Kidderminster's last comparable defeat was inflicted by Crewe in August. "We lost 6-1 at home, and they were scintillating in going 4-0 up by half-time. But you can't really compare a pre-season friendly to a cup-tie. At least I hope not!"

"I'm looking forward to going there because they're a model of the kind of club we want to be, both in the way they're set up and how they play. And the upper Second Division is something we can realistically aspire to. If we get the principles and the structure of the place right, and don't spend more than we take in, there's no reason why we can't gradually progress."

Another Brazilian international, the Real Madrid defender Roberto Carlos, is full of praise for Bebeto. "He scores goals, and what's more he has ability and intelligence. For me, he's the perfect player," he said.

Roberto Carlos was one of several Real players who defended the Real coach, Fabio Capello, during the week after consecutive goalless draws at home. "We're to blame if we don't produce spectacular play," he said.

Real's problems worsened on Tuesday when Alvaro Benito was badly injured in Spain's Under-21 game against Slovakia. The striker will miss the rest of the season, increasing the likelihood that Capello will look for reinforcements when the Spanish transfer market reopens in December.

For the Seville game Capello welcomes back the Balkan strike-force of Davor Suker and Predrag Mijatovic, who scored for Croatia and Yugoslavia respectively in World Cup action last weekend.

Suker has promised he will not celebrate if he scores against his old club on Sunday, taking a leaf out of the book of Gabriel Moya - who seemed to be the forgiveness of Seville fans after getting on the score-sheet for Valencia earlier this season.

Camacho also found himself in need of clemency after beginning his career at Seville with just one win in nine games. But he has turned things around with three consecutive wins and will be hoping for a repeat of last season's encounters with Real.

Then manager Espanyol, Camacho humiliated his old team with categorical victories in both league and cup which prompted the end of Jorge Valdano's time in charge at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

Uruguay have sacked their national coach, Hector Nunez, in the wake of a defeat by Chile which left them struggling in the South American World Cup qualifying competition. "They didn't give me specific reasons. They told me it was over. Because of the results, I believe," Nunez said.

Nunez's dismissal came on the same day that Venezuela parted company with their coach, Rafael Santana, although in that case it was not clear whether Santana jumped or was pushed.

Tuesday's 1-0 defeat in Santiago left Uruguay seventh in the South American group, from which the top four teams qualify for the World Cup finals. They have won two games and lost three, the results including a shock home defeat by Paraguay. But the contest is close and Uruguay are only two points behind fourth-placed Argentina.

Bebeto the Real focus of attention

Bebeto could hardly have picked a better debut match for his reappearance in Spain, as his own side Seville play Real Madrid tomorrow.

But the return of the Brazilian World Cup striker - who was greeted by 7,000 Seville fans on arrival - will not be the only point of interest in a game that brings together teams with a tradition of swapping both players and coaches.

Jose Antonio Camacho, the Seville manager, is a former Real stalwart, while Real's leading goalscorer, the Croatian striker Davor Suker was until last season the darling of the crowd at Seville's Sanchez Pizjuan stadium.

The euphoria surrounding the signing of Bebeto has produced 3,000-strong crowds at Seville training sessions in scenes reminiscent of Diego Maradona's ill-fated season at the club in 1992-93. Bebeto, who spent four highly successful seasons with Deportivo La Coruña, had made no secret of his desire to return to Spain. "I and my family feel very happy here," he said.

Another Brazilian international, the Real Madrid defender Roberto Carlos, is full of praise for Bebeto. "He scores goals, and what's more he has ability and intelligence. For me, he's the perfect player," he said.

Roberto Carlos was one of several Real players who defended the Real coach, Fabio Capello, during the week after consecutive goalless draws at home. "We're to blame if we don't produce spectacular play," he said.

Real's problems worsened on Tuesday when Alvaro Benito was badly injured in Spain's Under-21 game against Slovakia. The striker will miss the rest of the season, increasing the likelihood that Capello will look for reinforcements when the Spanish transfer market reopens in December.

For the Seville game Capello welcomes back the Balkan strike-force of Davor Suker and Predrag Mijatovic, who scored for Croatia and Yugoslavia respectively in World Cup action last weekend.

Suker has promised he will not celebrate if he scores against his old club on Sunday, taking a leaf out of the book of Gabriel Moya - who seemed to be the forgiveness of Seville fans after getting on the score-sheet for Valencia earlier this season.

Camacho also found himself in need of clemency after beginning his career at Seville with just one win in nine games. But he has turned things around with three consecutive wins and will be hoping for a repeat of last season's encounters with Real.

Then manager Espanyol, Camacho humiliated his old team with categorical victories in both league and cup which prompted the end of Jorge Valdano's time in charge at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

Uruguay have sacked their national coach, Hector Nunez, in the wake of a defeat by Chile which left them struggling in the South American World Cup qualifying competition. "They didn't give me specific reasons. They told me it was over. Because of the results, I believe," Nunez said.

Nunez's dismissal came on the same day that Venezuela parted company with their coach, Rafael Santana, although in that case it was not clear whether Santana jumped or was pushed.

Tuesday's 1-0 defeat in Santiago left Uruguay seventh in the South American group, from which the top four teams qualify for the World Cup finals. They have won two games and lost three, the results including a shock home defeat by Paraguay. But the contest is close and Uruguay are only two points behind fourth-placed Argentina.

The other Newcastle dream of credibility and cash

At first Colin Murphy thought it was a wind-up. Enquiring who his team had drawn in the first round of the FA Cup, the Notts County manager had been assured: "Newcastle, away."

Even for a side struggling in the Second Division, facing Newcastle Town, of the North West Counties League, ought to be as big a mismatch as if County were visiting the Premiership leaders themselves. Sadly, police requisitioners and financial imperatives mean the

days of small non-League venues staging such ties are becoming scarcer. To Murphy's relief, no doubt, the game goes ahead at Stoke's Victoria Ground tomorrow.

The Staffordshire club need a 6,000 gate, 60 times their average, just to break even. "The biggest thing for us is not to be right down after 27 minutes," said their manager, Glyn Chamberlain, a Tesco delivery driver. He spoke for all Cup dreamers when he outlined

Phil Shaw assesses how the giant-killers may be as the League clubs begin their FA Cup campaign

Newcastle's priorities. "To come out of it with a lot of credibility and a few quid."

The memory of Marine's 11-2 mauling by Shrewsbury last November will play on the minds of many managers. Yet recent history shows that the eight Football League clubs facing Vauxhall Conference

opposition are also at risk. The Conference boasts 21 wins in such meetings over the past five seasons.

Macclesfield are probably favourites to beat Rochdale, despite having to give a debut to Andy Oakes, 19, in goal. Walsall will be under similar pressure at Northwich, now

managed by the former Telford giant-killer Mark Hancock. His principal marksman, Delwyn Humphries, scored against Preston in 1994 to take Kidderminster into the fifth round.

Preston themselves face Altrincham, who need one win to equal Yeovil's record of 17 League scalps. Barnet, knocked

out two years running by Woking, will do well to survive at Farnborough, and Cambridge's new manager, Roy McFarland, should be warned that Welling's attack contains the obligatory Mark O'Kane, manager of Shepshed Dynamo, of the Dr Martens League (Midland Division), has dreamt he scores the winner at Carlisle; shame he no longer plays. Sudbury, from the Southern Division, look more capable of an upset, if

beating Brighton can be so described, with Hull also on a hiding to nothing against Whitby at Scarborough tomorrow.

Consett, away to Mansfield, have conceded only one goal in eight matches in this year's Cup; Morecambe, who travel to Boston, have amassed 23. Meanwhile, the collision of Torquay (15-4 losers at Walsall in last season's competition) and Luton (thrashed 7-1 by Grimsby) is surely a banker no-score draw.

SPORTING DIGEST

Basketball
The Spanish team Valencia have secured an American player Marques Brown after he tested positive for cocaine in a routine drug test. "It's impossible, I don't drink and I haven't taken any medication," said Brown, who was playing for Pamesa on a temporary contract. In the past several other Americans have tested positive for cocaine, which is banned in Spain but is widely used in industries elsewhere in the United States.

NBA: New York 99 Toronto 86; Orlando 90 Charlotte 86; Minnesota 90 Dallas 89; Houston 90 Indiana 88; Memphis 82 Phoenix 85; Golden State 82 Milwaukee 82; Seattle 81 LA Clippers 78.

Cricket
Surrey 271 (100 overs) vs Lancashire 271 (100 overs) at Old Trafford, Manchester. Surrey won by 41 runs.

Football
The global world governing body, FIFA, yesterday announced that Guatemala's home games in the World Cup will be staged in Los Angeles and El Salvador following last month's stadium sabotage.

In Guatemala City which left 84 people dead.

The former England and Tottenham defender, Graham Roberts, has rejected an offer to manage the GM Vauxhall Conference side Northwich. The Yeovil player, who has been on an improved contract to stay with his present club, Roberts said he would rather play for Yeovil than manage Northwich.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.

WWE: Bret Hart (wrestler) defeated Shawn Michaels (wrestler) in a match for the WWF Championship. Michaels was the defending champion.



Lady in red

Shirley Bassey, a Ferrari and a rock star's passion, page 25

sport

At home at Highbury
Dennis Bergkamp talks to Glenn Moore, page 28

Bosnich's 'act of stupidity' costs £1,000

Football
NICK DUXBURY

Mark Bosnich's Hitler-style salute to Tottenham Hotspur supporters was yesterday labelled "an act of stupidity" by the Football Association, who fined the Aston Villa goalkeeper £1,000, but decided against suspending him.

The 24-year-old Bosnich, who declared that "common sense had prevailed" was found guilty of misconduct by a three-man FA commission chaired by Geoff Thompson of the Sheffield and Hallamshire FA, at Lancaster Gate. The commission, in addition to the fine, severely censured the Australian, warned him as to his future conduct and ordered him to pay the costs of the hearing which lasted an hour and a half.

The gesture during the match at White Hart Lane on 12 October caused outrage that was exacerbated because of Spurs' large Jewish following. However, the player insisted that it was merely a prank that misfired.

Announcing the verdict, Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "The commission heard that Bosnich had been subjected to abusive chanting from the home crowd before the incident."

"Bosnich told the commission that his gesture to the crowd was intended as a Basil Fawlty-style joke. He was unaware of Tottenham's Jewish following and was devastated at the reaction to the incident. He stated that he abhorred racism."

"The commission decided that, while Bosnich's action was an act of stupidity, it was not his intention to cause offence or be insulting. He apologised publicly, quickly and profusely."

Bosnich was relieved with the outcome. "What we have seen today is common sense prevail,"

he said. "Let's hope I can now put this incident behind me and go forward with my career."

Asked about the fine, he said: "It's time to put this behind me. There are far more important things going on and to be honest I'm sick of hearing my own voice."

"I abhor racism. The best thing to come out of this is that may be it has raised the awareness of racism. The FA [the players' union] have got an anti-racism campaign underway and I would like to put my full support behind that."

The fine will not stop Bosnich enjoying banter with supporters. "I still definitely hope to have a rapport with fans. Sometimes in life when you do things wrong the best thing to do is to come out openly and to explain and say sorry. I'm 24. I made a mistake

and that's the way it goes." Brian Little, the Villa manager, was also satisfied. "It has been a fair hearing," he said.

However, the book is not closed on the incident as Bosnich, who misses today's home game against Leicester City with a long-standing knee injury, is still waiting to hear if he will face police action. A report has been sent to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Francis Lee has tried to appease Manchester City's frustrated supporters by insisting that Georgi Kinkladze is not on his way out of the club, despite reports claiming that the Georgian midfielder is unsettled.

Lee came under fire from sections of the crowd as City slipped to a dismal 3-2 home defeat at the hands of Oxford on Wednesday night, with hundreds of fans besieging the front entrance to call for the chairman's removal after seeing their team slip into the bottom six of the First Division.

"When you hear the things that were said it hurts," said Lee, who took over in January 1994. "But I have made a large investment in this club and I will not be walking away. If I walk away from it now, I would be admitting defeat and missing out on what could be a much better period and brighter future for the club."

On Kinkladze, Lee said: "Giovanni is very happy at Manchester City and I think he is very loyal to the club in staying here. But, so far as his career is concerned, if we were unable to reclaim Premiership status for next year we would have to think again in the boy's best interests."

"I do think he will stay this season. We have had no offers for him and he thinks that some of the things that are being written in newspapers are complete nonsense."



Mark Bosnich's attempt at humour at Spurs backfired. Photograph: Action Images



Sight for sore eyes: Faustino Asprilla (left) and Les Ferdinand, Newcastle's strike force, limber up for today's visit of West Ham.

Photograph: North News

Cantona's galling prospect

Phil Shaw considers the role of three Frenchmen whose joie de vivre will influence the top of the Premiership today

Much as his compatriots once stormed the Bastille for a useful way win, Arsène Wenger will today be striving to take Manchester United's Old Trafford fortress and further undermine Eric Cantona's position as the English game's most influential Frenchman.

The differences between United's captain and the new Arsenal manager expose national stereotyping as the nonsense it is. While the price of Cantona's creativity is often a volatility which has reared its unacceptable head again and again, Wenger has brought a cultured, almost scientific approach to Highbury. Arsenal's prospects of inflicting a fifth successive defeat on the champions may hinge on their ability to implement his game plan amid the frenzy of a packed stadium. Similarly, it will be intriguing to see whether Alex Ferguson has used the hiatus caused by an international weekend to revamp United's tactics, especially in terms of getting more from their troubled talisman.

Wenger's track record and personality, not to mention the fact that he inherited the country's meanest defence, make it improbable that he will come out with all Gungnir blazing. When he promised this week to attack, he was referring to those who sought to sneer his private life. His policy this afternoon is likely to be one of counter-attack.

The struggle for supremacy between Cantona and another enfant de la patrie, Patrick Vieira, could be crucial. If Cantona and Wenger represent wildly contrasting strands of Gallic character, the long-striding Vieira seems blessed with the best of both worlds.

"He's highly motivated and fights for every ball," Wenger says, "but he also plays very good passes."

Ferguson is ready to recall Ryan Giggs, who has made only a brief appearance as sub-

stitute since a calf injury in September. Roy Keane is suspended, which reduces United's options for tracking Vieira's surges between the penalty areas, but may be just as well given his flawed temperament and the fractious history of this fixture. The match will be beamed back to London for a closed-circuit television showing before the North Bank.

The "House Full" signs will also be posted at Newcastle and Leeds. The Premiership pace-setters, who are confident that Alan Shearer will have recovered from his groin operation in time to return at Chelsea next weekend, take on West Ham in search of a ninth victory in 10 games. The Hammers' squad are to undergo special visual tests at an Essex optician on Monday, if Newcastle can again stoke up their crowd, they may need their ears examined too. The visit of Liverpool, fourth

from top, to Leeds, fourth from bottom and with the division's most disillusioned fans, according to a new survey, is of critical importance to both clubs. Leeds are being linked with everyone from teenage terrors at Tranmere to Swiss centre-backs in Sardinia, yet George Graham again seeds out a side comprised of Howard Wilkinson's signings.

Ian Rush, stuck in the worst goalless streak of his career, is likely to have to break his duck from his new, makeshift role on the right of midfield. "I've been looking forward to this match ever since I left Anfield," he said. "It'll be a special occasion, but also a strange one for me."

Humiliated by the basement club, Blackburn, in their last League outing, Liverpool are only too aware that their black November a year ago meant they were always fighting to make up lost ground. The possibility of Jamie Redknapp's being left out for Patrik Berger is sure to alert those who may feel better able to offer a regular place.

The 13-day break since their first success denied Blackburn the opportunity to sustain their momentum. Nor would they have chosen to resume against Chelsea, who must decide whether to stay with the team, who won at Old Trafford or give Gianfranco Zola his first taste of the British hurly-burly.

It is a safe bet that Zola, newly arrived from Parma, was unfamiliar with the name of the caretaker manager at Ewood Park. However, Tony Parkes was asked yesterday by Robert Coar, the Blackburn chairman, to continue in the job even though he does not want it on a permanent basis.

"He'll stay in control as he has for the past three weeks, and neither Tony nor the players have any problems with this," Coar said, in what sounded ominously like the dreaded vote of confidence.

Johansson apology in race row

Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, European football's governing body, made a public apology yesterday as he tried to defuse a row over alleged racist remarks he made following a recent trip to South Africa.

The row was caused by a lengthy interview Johansson gave to the Swedish daily *Aftonbladet*, which quoted him using the Swedish word which translates as "darky" or "blackie". Johansson was alleged to have used the phrase when discussing events at a meeting to discuss holding the 2006 World Cup in Africa.

"When I got to South Africa the whole room was full of blackies and it's dark when they sit down all together," the interview quoted Johansson as saying. "What's more it's not fun when they're angry. I thought if

this lot get in a bad mood it won't be so funny."

The interview also quoted Johansson as swearing. His remarks have caused a storm of criticism in Sweden. Johansson, responding while on holiday in Germany, did not deny making them.

"I am sorry, I cannot recall swearing so many times but that doesn't affect the contents. I cannot recall using the term 'blackie', but on the other hand I can't exclude it," he said. "I am not a racist. I apologise to anyone who interpreted it [the interview] as if I was one."

Johansson insisted that he is not a racist. "Everyone who knows me knows I am not the way I have been described. Quite the contrary. I have many coloured friends, not the least in FIFA," he said.

Uefa moved swiftly to play down the significance of the remarks. Its spokesman, Massimo Gonnella, claimed there had been a misunderstanding between Johansson and the journalist concerned.

Gonnella said: "He did the interview, no-one is denying this. But apparently between him and the journalist there has been some kind of misunderstanding. That is where the problems are. There were probably mistakes on both sides. He has a joking manner. Maybe this was the problem, maybe the journalist didn't understand what he was trying to say."

Even so, the remarks are unlikely to help Johansson, the 67-year-old vice-president of FIFA, in his campaign to replace Joao Havelange, its 81-year-old president.

ON MONDAY
20-page sports section

Henman and Rusedski close in on the final

Tennis
DERRICK WHYTE
reports from Teiford

Britain's two leading players, Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, moved closer to a meeting in tomorrow's final when both eased through the quarter-finals of the British National Championships here yesterday.

Henman beat Nick Gould of Bristol, 6-1, 6-3, in 45 minutes, while Rusedski defeated the 21-year-old Norfolk player Tom Spinks, 6-3, 6-0, in six minutes under the hour. It is difficult to see either being beaten in today's semi-finals, especially as their opponents had hard matches yesterday. Paul Robinson, who will take on Rusedski in a battle of left-handers, saved three match points at 6-7 in the final set before beating another left-hander, Andrew Richardson, 1-6, 7-6, 9-7, after 2hr 32min on court.

Chris Wilkinson, the British No 3 who now meets Henman, played a similar match against Jamie Delgado of Maidenhead, winning 2-6, 6-0, 9-7 in 2hr 19min. He saved a match point when 4-5 down in the third.

Henman and Rusedski stressed how relaxed they are this week but both admit that should they meet in the final, there will be no holds barred. They have met twice before, with Henman beating Rusedski in three sets in the final here last year and then defeating him 7-6, 7-5 in the Czech Open in Ostrava last month.

Rusedski said: "I've worked out a plan with my coach, Brian Teacher, on the best way of

playing Tim but I'm saying nothing. If we do meet in the final you'll have the chance to see if the plan works."

Henman insisted: "I would like to win the tournament again but I'm not losing any sleep over it. There has been healthy rivalry in my two previous meetings with Greg and he has not enjoyed losing. But we still have to win another match before we can think about the final."

Henman and Jeremy Bates, the holders, were beaten 6-1, 6-3 in the semi-finals of the men's doubles by Danny Sapsford of Surrey and Stoke's Andrew Foster. The result means Bates, winner of the men's singles six times, has played his last match in the championships as he insists this is his last appearance in the Nationals.

The women's singles final, to be played today, will be between two 21-year-old left-handers, Claire Taylor of Banbury and Julie Pullin from Sussex. Taylor will start as favourite after beating the defending champion, Clare Wood of Sussex, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5, but Pullin, who defeated Lucie Ahl of Devon, 6-1, 6-4, will not lack support of her own.

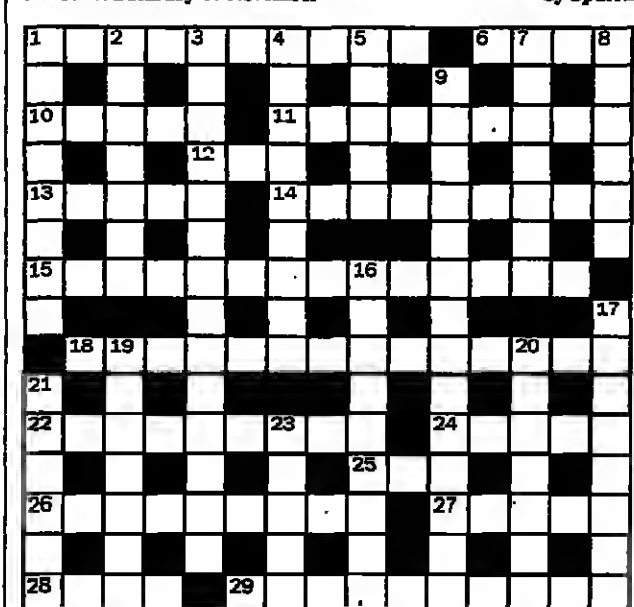
Pullin had a comfortable victory, leading by a set and 5-1 before Ahl delayed the end by winning three successive games but Taylor might easily have lost. Wood, who has won the title three times, led 5-3 in the final set and served for the match at 5-4. But Taylor rose to the occasion, breaking Wood to love for 5-5 and then taking the next two games to 30.

Results, Digest, page 29

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3146, Saturday 16 November

By Spuries



Friday's solution
SOPHIA ASSUME
U E L A U A
OSTRACISE MIRE
P D O C R I O A
T O L C A N T E R B U R Y
H S T S E I E A
E N T R A C T E S M E L T
S M E R E I U G
T R A M P F O R S U A N E
O U O C M E R
C O U N T R O O M S B E N D
K L A W A W I A
S L A N T P A G E A N T R Y
E I V E I O R O
G I S T I O N D E P A R T

ACROSS

- Reacting to irritation by withdrawing? (10)
- Flan guide always carries (4)
- Landlord's place suitable for resident? (5)
- It's stupid reversing action of piston in intermediate positions (3-6)
- Priest from Italy the Spanish will introduce (3)
- Count number of trade union leaders taking part in summit (3, 2)
- West Indian entertainer's opening in Barbican, perhaps? (9)
- Party occasion when union card's out of order? (7, 7)
- Where bottom line of bank balance is found? That's putting it mildly (14)
- Toper imbibing last of gin with lemon slices, apt to drop off? (9)
- Father always reading poetry, relatively liberal (5)
- Stuff that's turned over as spoil (3)
- Dire night out incorporating drunken spree (9)
- Practice suggested by Frankfurt abandoned by South Africa? (5)
- Crack troops stationed beside hospital window? Sort of (4)
- Event that's exciting on tenth lap? (10)

DOWN

- What can be awfully tedious - onset of loneliness (8)
- Cheese found in girl's bed (7)
- Places where calling cards could help in making contacts? (9, 5)
- Crimes in domestic settings probed by one lot of policemen (9)
- Low point reached by North American director (5)
- Bar-room (7)
- Worker carrying disease is not on the premises (6)
- Only allowed cheese and biscuits for dessert? (9, 5)
- Piece of legislation requires presentation (9)
- Veterinarian with time to take care of fish (8)
- Breakage of Meissen will bring retribution (7)
- See something removed from Gloucester, according to William (7)
- Things vouchsafed in theatre, like fateful date in March? (6)
- Cancel article in old Celtic language (5)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened last Thursday's edition of the crossword. The new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to: Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 4816, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: C Eastwood, London SE13; Julia Pilling, Eastwood; C & J Black, Mythen; Jane Butler, Loughborough; S Malik, Tipton.

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, and printed at Murrer Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford

Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01908 841570.

Saturday 16 November 1996

Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

A completely different weekend break

from only £49

Winter in Amsterdam - warm, culture, cobbled streets, very safe and much closer than you think. A unique city with a relaxed atmosphere that's vibrant, friendly and easy going.

And now you can take a self-drive short break winter weekend including accommodation with Thomson CityBreaks in conjunction with LBS SHUTTLE from only £49. (You can't get more easy going than that!)

THE ANSWER IS

Holland

TO MAKE A RESERVATION CALL

THOMSON CityBreaks

0171 200 8705

OR SEE YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT

Prices based on 4 in a car in two rooms in a 17 hotel for 1 night on a bed and breakfast basis from 16 November 1996 - 28 February 1997.

ADTA 128